

## Group says it freed Belgian hostages

BEIRUT (R) — A Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal said Monday it had released four Belgian hostages in response to efforts by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. "In response to great efforts by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi... I am pleased to announce that our movement has released the rest of the alio boat prisoners (hostages)," the Free Syrian Revolutionary Council (FRC) said in a statement. The statement did not say when and where the release took place but FRC spokesman Walid Khalid told Reuters the hostages would "appear soon." The four Belgians are Emmanuel Houetkin, 45, his wife Colette, 40, and their children Valerie, 19, and Laurent, 20. "Negotiations between the group and the Belgian government has ended and we have reached an agreement on all issues... the prisoners could appear either in Lebanon or abroad," he said at the Mar Elias Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut. Reports on where the hostages were held varied. Some said they were kept in South Lebanon, others in the eastern Bekaa Valley while a few suggested they were in Libya.



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## 2 more Americans killed in Gulf

SAUDI ARABIA (AF) — Two more U.S. military personnel have died as a result of traffic accidents in Saudi Arabia, the U.S. central command said Monday. A soldier died at Landstuhl army hospital in Germany where he was evacuated after suffering severe burns in an army tractor-trailer accident on Dec. 22, the command said. In another accident Sunday night, one marine was killed and three others injured in a head-on traffic accident in northeast Saudi Arabia, the command said. The deaths bring the total number of Americans who have died in Operation Desert Shield and related activities to 96.

## Anti-war protest in London

LONDON (AP) — A small group of American peace campaigners on Monday staged an anti-war protest outside the U.S. embassy in London, police said. The demonstration by two dozen members of Americans for Peace coincided with the visit to London of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, here for talks with European foreign ministers before he meets Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz in Geneva Wednesday in a bid to avert war in the Gulf.

## Haitian army arrests leader of coup bid

PONT-AU-PRINCE (R) — The Haitian army stormed the presidential palace Monday morning, halting a coup attempt by Col. Jean-Claude "Baby" Doc Duvalier. Roger Lafontant hours after the former head of the feared Tonton Macoutes said he had seized power, local radio and diplomats reported. Lafontant was apparently wounded in the arm during a 30-minute gun battle and was arrested by soldiers at about 9:30 a.m. (1430 GMT), diplomats and Radio Galaxie said (see earlier story on page 8).

## Second 'peace boat' sails for Tripoli

TUNIS (R) — A second Arab "peace boat" carrying medicine and milk to Iraq left Tunis Sunday for Tripoli on the second leg of its voyage towards the Gulf. Tunisian trade union sources said Monday. The Iraqi-flag Balqees, which began its trip from Algiers on Thursday, loaded 40 tonnes of medicine in Tunis as a gift from Tunisian workers, said Abdul Majid Sahraoui, an official of the Tunisian General Labour Union. The Balqees mission follows the interception of the first Arab peace boat, the Iraqi freighter Ibn Khaldoun, by Western navies in the Arabian Sea last month.

## Rival gunmen clash in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen of rival militias clashed in Beirut Sunday, breaching a peace plan enforced by the government, security sources said Monday. They said members of the Syrian Nationalist Social Party traded machinegun fire with militiamen of the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia for 15 minutes in the Dibayeh district of the capital. No casualties were reported, they added. The army said it set up checkpoints in the area to try to find those responsible for the clash.

## Japan's socialist leader to visit Iraq

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Socialist Party leader, Takako Doi, will embark on a three-day peace mission to Iraq Wednesday, a party spokesman said Monday. The mission was welcomed by Iraq's ambassador to Tokyo, Rashid Al Rifai, who met with Doi for two hours Sunday and said he would do all he could to help. Doi would travel first to Paris to meet French officials before flying to Iraq via Amman, the spokesman said. In Sunday's meeting, Doi stressed the need for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and the demand of world opinion that Iraq withdraw completely from Kuwait.

## Baker, Hurd say Gulf deadline cannot be extended

LONDON (Agencies) — The United States and Britain said Monday there would be no extension of the U.N. deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait and only a prompt Iraqi pullout would avert war.

After talks in London, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd were questioned by reporters on suggestions that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein might ask the Security Council for an extension of the Jan. 15 deadline.

Baker said: "We should not be talking about postponing deadlines that we have been saying are real deadlines. "Saddam Hussein has it within his power to determine whether there is peace or whether there is no peace. The choice is his. We hope he makes the right choice."

Baker spent two hours with Hurd en route to a crucial meeting in Geneva Wednesday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz. Hurd, endorsing Baker's tough position, said hints that Iraq might be willing to withdraw if the U.N. extended the deadline were unacceptable.

"We have ears cocked for a message from Baghdad... the message the world is waiting for from Baghdad is not one of delay but one of compliance," he said.

Baker, reiterating that he would not negotiate with Aziz, said the time for talking had almost run out. "We need to

hear less talk from Baghdad and we need to see some action," he said.

Baker also flatly rejected a French overture to Iraq that would link a pullout from Kuwait to an eventual Mideast peace conference.

"We find it impossible to sign on to it," Baker said.

At the same time, he acknowledged not all the members of the 28-nation alliance with forces in the Gulf area would fight alongside American troops.

The vast majority in my view are firm," Baker said late Sunday. "Not only will they be willing to fight, many of them are eager to fight."

However, he said, "there are some varying degrees of commitment."

Baker said he would give Aziz a letter from President Bush to deliver to President Saddam.

"There really is nothing to negotiate," Baker said. "There are some things to communicate."

He is also believed to be carrying satellite pictures showing the scale of the allied deployment in the Gulf to convince Iraq that the United States is not bluffing.

After his meeting with Hurd, Baker planned consultations in London with NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, and Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, whose country holds the rotating presidency of

the European Community.

On Tuesday, Baker will see French President Francois Mitterrand, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis.

If the Aziz meeting ends in failure, the focus of Baker's mission will quickly switch from peace to war.

Mitterrand, while supporting the U.S.-led drive to reverse Iraq's Aug. 2 occupation of Kuwait, also has proposed offering Iraq some incentive to withdraw.

With strong German and Italian support, he proposed the staging of a Mideast peace conference after an Iraqi agreement to pull out of Kuwait during which Palestinian complaints against Israel would be aired.

Once again, Baker ruled out going to Baghdad to see Saddam after the meeting with Aziz.

But Baker, responding to questioning by reporters, did not rule out seeing Saddam somewhere other than Iraq.

According to an Arab diplomat in Baghdad quoted by the AP, Saddam and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat have asked a French envoy to try to get the Security Council to reverse its Jan. 15 deadline.

The diplomat said both Saddam and Arafat proposed to Michel Vauzelle that France, and probably other countries, ask the Security Council to convene and reconsider the authorisation for U.S.-led multinational force to use force.

## French stand unchanged after Vauzelle mission

PARIS (R) — France's determination to free Kuwait remained unchanged after lengthy weekend talks between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and a confidant of President Francois Mitterrand, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Monday.

He said Paris remained determined to secure an Iraqi pullout and guaranteed the Baghdad government that it would not be attacked if it withdrew its troops.

Dumas said in a radio interview that Michel Vauzelle, president of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission and Mitterrand's former spokesman, said the United Nations would not be asked to extend its mandate.

"I am not saying that things are being untangled. But it is always important to hear all points of views," he said.

"It is important to know the state of mind of your opponent."

Dumas defined France's stand on the Gulf crisis as "respect of the law, implementation of (United Nations) resolutions, firmness in tone without resorting to insults, an opening-up as soon as the first resolution regarding the evacuation of Kuwait is implemented, assurance that in this case Iraq would not be attacked by the international community."

"Iraq and Palestine represent a common will. We will be together side by side and after the great battle, God willing, we will pray together in Jerusalem," Arafat said.

"The Iraqi fighters and the Palestinian stone-throwers (in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza) have an appointment with victory together," he told the rally.

Palestinian leaders predicted Monday Palestinians in the occupied territories will try to engage Israel in a "second war" of disruption if the Jewish state gets involved in a Gulf war.

## 'PLO will join Iraq in battle'

BAGHDAD (R) — Yasser Arafat said Monday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would stand alongside Iraq in any war against U.S.-led forces in the Gulf.

Addressing Palestinian rally in Baghdad, attended by senior Iraqi officials, the PLO chairman said if the United States and allies wanted to fight Iraq over its seizure of Kuwait, "then we say welcome, welcome, welcome to war."

"Iraq and Palestine represent a common will. We will be together side by side and after the great battle, God willing, we will pray together in Jerusalem," Arafat said.

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## Bush may call off summit; Shevardnadze may return

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush is reportedly considering cancelling a February superpower summit because of differences over arms agreements and the Gulf crisis, a newspaper and U.S. television network reported.

The United States still intends at this point to go ahead with the summit but there is a possibility that it could be delayed, a White House spokesman said later Monday.

"I guess it's fair to say that there's always a possibility that the trip could be delayed, but at this point we intend to go," White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater said when asked if the summit would be rescheduled.

The New York Times Monday quoted an unidentified Washington source as saying there was a review of the summit prospects during the last few weeks and "there is now a strong possibility that there may not be a meeting in Moscow next month."

In addition, the uncertainties about the situation in the Gulf

also led us to reconsider the schedule," the official told the New York Times.

Slow negotiating of a long-range missile treaty and disputes over November agreement pending down conventional arms in Europe were cited by the times as reasons for possible cancelling the talks.

In addition, the summit has been scheduled for February, two weeks after a United Nations-set deadline for Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait or face the possibility of attack by the U.S.-dominated multinational force.

However, U.S. government officials said there was also concern in the Bush administration over Soviet foreign policy, given the recent resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the apparent growing influence of the Soviet network.

Presses to whether Shevardnadze's resignation might be reversible, Yanayev said: "Nothing is eternal under the moon."

On Dec. 22, Bush made reference to Shevardnadze's warnings of the possibility of a Soviet dictatorship saying: "Obviously,

they are basing their confidential material on collaborators who sold their soul and their state for money," Qanu said. All read passages from the



Prime Minister Mudar Badran consults with Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh during Monday's session of the Lower House (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## War would extend throughout world, Iraqi president warns

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein Monday warned that there could be an all-out war if hostilities broke out in the Gulf between Iraq and the U.S.-led multinational forces.

"The aggressors plan to make Iraq as the operation theatre, but when the battle is launched Iraq will not be the only theatre," Saddam told his senior aides Monday.

Speaking one day after he told the Iraqi army that they should be prepared for a long war with the United States, Saddam said the war could extend to all Arab countries and probably the world at large.

"Each and every Arab struggle will stretch its arm to reach all those there to attack Iraq wherever they are on the globe," he said in an address broadcast on Baghdad Radio.

Saddam, who described Iraq's confrontation with the United States as the "battle of liberating Palestine," said Arabs were defeated in the past because they did not extend their battles to other places.

"The nation was defeated because its battlefield was not comprehensive and expanded as it

should be."

"From our side and even from their side, the battle is comprehensive in its objectives and its goals," he said.

The Iraqi leader promised his people of victory in the war and said the outcome will be great changes in the area. He did not elaborate.

"Victory is near. I not only see it but deal with it," he said.

"Aggressors will be defeated not only on the land of Najid and Hijaz (Saudi Arabia) but everywhere they are," he said.

The radio said Saddam chaired a meeting for the Iraqi general command earlier in the day. But gave no further details.

Saddam said a war alert existed not only in every Iraqi town but in Algeria, Jordan, Egypt and inside every heart and conscience of every Syrian and from the far west to the far east of the Arab World."

Saddam's warning raised the spectre of guerrilla attacks on U.S. other Western targets abroad and those of their Arab allies if a Gulf war broke out.

"The expectation is not a better life for the Iraqis, but for the whole nation and our battle is designed on this basis," Saddam

said.

Saddam said in an address marking Aramy Day Sunday that the one-million-strong Iraqi military was prepared for the "mother of all battles" to hold on to Kuwait and liberate Palestine.

He told commanders on Sunday night: "The battle turned today into an all-out battle in its aims and means where all people of goodwill have taken their side and the evil ones the other side.

"You will decide in your favour the outcome of a series of aims in this battle, aims which will deeply and completely change the situation and the reality of the nation."

Saddam went over reasons for Arab failures in previous confrontations with enemies such as Israel and said he expected victory this time.

"One of the reasons for the (Arab) nation's weakness is the feeling of impotence because of lack of faith and prerequisites for the confrontation. But now, with all these requirements fulfilled... victory is close."

Iraq's Defense Ministry newspaper, said Monday the conflict would have repercussions

(Continued on page 2)

## 4 Palestinian drop anti-expulsion appeal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Four Palestinians Monday dropped their appeals against orders to expel them from the occupied Gaza Strip after Israel's supreme court rejected a plea to see secret evidence against them, Israel Radio reported.

Supreme court clerk Shmaryahu Cohen confirmed the withdrawal of the appeals, and an army spokesman said the step clears the way for expulsions as international pressure.

Expelling the four can be expected to renew objections from the United States and other Western countries, which have repeatedly complained that Israel's practice of expelling Palestinians violates international law.

Israel has expelled 60 Palestinians during the three-year uprising. Most were sent to Lebanon.

After the four expulsion orders were announced last month, the U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution deplored the decision by the government of Israel, the occupying power, to resume deportations of Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories.

Imad Al Alami, 33, Mustafa Al Qanu, 44, Mustafa Al Lida'i, 27, and Fadel Zaabout, 37 — all accused of key roles in the banned Hamas Islamic fundamentalist organisation — stood in turn to condemn the Israeli judicial system.

Yassin, who founded Hamas after the eruption of the Palestinian revolt in December 1987, denied charges that he had ordered the kidnapping and killing of two Israeli soldiers.

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## Iranians thrive on 'import/export' over the border with Iraq

By Anwar Faruqi  
The Associated Press

TEHRAN — Mahmoud Ali, a burly Kurd, sat in a battered chair in Tehran's Atlas Hotel and happily admitted that his smuggling operation into Iraq is booming.

"We take whatever we can sell, but fresh food, especially meat, sells best," he said. "We sell a lot of it."

He frowned at the word "smuggler," then gave another toothy grin and described himself as a "businessman. I'm in the import-export business."

Officially, Tehran, which says it is neutral in the Gulf crisis, is abiding by the U.N. trade embargo on Iraq — despite appeals from Saddam Hussein and demands by Iranian radicals that food and medicine be sent to fellow Shiite Muslims there.

"I can assure you that no goods are crossing the border with Iraq," Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said in a recent interview.

But Mahmoud Ali and thousands like him are making a mockery of the sanctions, imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait Aug. 2.

The smugglers are helping Iraq survive the international effort to strangle its economy and to force it out of Kuwait.

"Our grazing grounds are so close to the border that we can easily slip in a herd or two. Of course, other things can be slipped in just as easily," Ali said.

"There's a big market in Iraq for sugar, flour, fruit, tomato sauce, powdered milk, and canned goods," he said.

Travellers from Baghdad say the shelves of many stores are crammed with foodstuffs said to have come from Iran.

But most diplomats in Baghdad and Tehran do not believe that more strategic materials, like military or industrial spare

parts, are getting in from Iran.

The sanctions on Iraq have been a boon for people like Ali. But border smuggling between Iran and Iraq has been going on for years. The main smugglers were the Kurds, whose mountainous region straddles the frontier.

Tehran residents say that even during the eight-year war with Iraq, when Iranian consumers suffered severe food shortages, Iraqi goods — including items such as toothpaste — were available on the market.

"We've simply reversed our route," said Ali, who boasted that he makes killing during the Iran-Iraq war with his mule trains of contraband clambering over mountain trails.

Iran's border with Iraq is closed to Western observers, making it impossible to gauge the size of the hole in the sanctions.

Officials have admitted, however, that it is impossible to seal the winding 1,171-kilometre frontier.

By day, the northern frontier where Ali operates is guarded. But by night, it becomes a no-man's land where the hardy Kurds — who are always fighting the Iranians or the Iraqis — are in control.

The Kurds know the mountains so well, that day or night, they can slip through secret passes they have used for generations," said an Iranian journalist who recently visited Kurdistan.

Still, President Hashemi Rafsanjani appears content to leave Iraq to its fate.

But his hardline anti-Western rivals, led by Parliament Speaker Mehdi Karroubi and former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, want him to confront the United States, which they consider the Islamic republic's arch-enemy.

"I believe that food and medicine should be sent to Iraq," Karroubi said, echoing calls in the radical-dominated parliament.

"We, who suffered during the war from the Western sanctions against us, are sorry to see the suffering of the Iraqi people, who have done nothing wrong."

the sanctions.

Many Iranians, with harsh memories of wartime carnage still fresh in their minds, have no wish to aid the Iraqis. Officials say they are trying to stop the sanction-busting smugglers.

"Yesterday we even stopped a Kurd who was trying to smuggle just two sacks of flour on a donkey," Besharati said.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported in September that 29 men were arrested attempting to smuggle food across the border.

There has been little other evidence of efforts to enforce the sanctions.

But Besharati said some Iranian border guards have been killed in shootouts with smugglers. None of these incidents were reported by the official media.

Iranian newspaper editorials have insisted that food and other "humanitarian" shipments were exempt from the sanctions and suggested that Tehran should send food and medicine to the "Muslim brothers" across the border.

Iran has condemned the invasion of Kuwait, but has also denounced the Western military intervention in the Gulf. Still, President Hashemi Rafsanjani appears content to leave Iraq to its fate.

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"It is a national crime to bring in people when we have unemployment so high," said Israel Kassar, general secretary of the Histadrut labour federation.

At least 110,000 Israelis are out of work, and many of the more than 190,000 Soviets who arrived last year are desperately seeking work, he said.

In addition, Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip make up more than half of Israel's 120,000 construction workers and ten percent of Arab economists said.

Thousands of Arabs already have lost jobs in Israel following

## Sudanese court frees 5 convicted of bombing

CHARTOUM (AP) — A judge Monday freed five Palestinians who had served less than three years in prison for a bombing that killed four British nationals and three other people.

One of the defendants said he would "do it again, everywhere, ... until the liberation of Palestine."

The five originally were convicted of assassination and sentenced to hang for the May 15, 1988, bombing of a hotel dining room and another attack on a nearby private club frequented by foreigners.

In passing sentence, Hadi said the Britons' stipulations were not binding on the court.

Under Sudan's Islamic law, a court may ignore implied or stated "unusual conditions" imposed by families of murder victims who opt not to have a murderer hanged.

Technically, the sentences were imprisonment of two years for murder, two years for destruction of property, six months for illegal possession of weapons and two months for attempted murder. Several people were wounded and two months in the bombing at the Acropole and subsequent submachine-gum attack on the Sudan club.

But Hadi said the sentences were "concurrent" meaning in Sudanese usage the murder sentence would cancel out the destruction sentence and the attempted murder the illegal possession.

The five men were arrested immediately after the attack on the club, which during Sudan's colonial period was restricted to British people.

reveal his name or say who provided the blood money.

Relatives of the British victims, all Quakers who do not believe in capital punishment, refused to accept money but told the court through the British embassy they wanted the men punished with long prison sentences at hard labour.

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## Demand grows for Pakistani withdrawal from Gulf force

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A growing number of Pakistanis are demanding that their orthodox Islamic government recall the country's 5,000 soldiers from the multi-national force arrayed against Iraq in Saudi Arabia.

Increasingly, Pakistanis are condemning U.S. involvement in the Gulf and are praising Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for his unrelenting efforts to link the Gulf crisis to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.S. President George Bush has refused to discuss linking the crisis over Kuwait and the Palestinian question.

"The thirst for Saddam's blood is but a logical sequence to... the ongoing brutal and inhuman repression in occupied Palestine," editorialised the Muslim, the country's largest selling English-language newspaper.

Pakistani authorities had been worried about joining the international troop mobilisation in Saudi Arabia largely because of growing anti-American sentiment at home.

Fearing that an offer of troops would be seen as a concession to Washington, Islamabad waited for a personally delivered request from Saudi Arabia before promising in September to deploy soldiers. It was not until a week ago that the last troops left.

Both the civilian and military leadership have been vehement in their assertion that Pakistan's soldiers are in the kingdom solely to defend the shrines in Mecca and Medina, Islam's holiest cities. The government also has been careful to disavow any links with U.S. soldiers, saying Pakistan's troops were under the command of the Saudis.

But many Pakistanis, including several cabinet ministers, aren't convinced and they want their troops recalled.

During a recent session of the National Assembly, Satar Niazi, an Islamic fundamentalist and social affairs minister, blasted his government's decision to send troops to the Gulf and demanded an immediate withdrawal.

In a stolid speech to the powerful policy-making Lower House of Parliament, Niazi also blasted the United Nations, calling it "an organisation of hypocrites... formed to bring peace to the world, (instead) it has sanctioned American aggression against Iraq."

A second National Assembly member, Mohammad Khan Shirani, demanded a return of Pakistani troops and a united drive by Muslim countries "to force American troops from Saudi Arabia."

The more orthodox and powerful members of Pakistan's government appear to be leading the drive for a withdrawal.

In the past several weeks, demonstrations have been held in the capital over Pakistan's involvement in the Gulf and the deployment of U.S. troops there.

Anti-American rhetoric has dominated Pakistan's English and Urdu language newspapers since Washington suspended a \$573 million economic and military assistance programme on Oct. 1 over suspicions about Pakistan's nuclear programme.

While routinely denying it has an atomic bomb, Islamabad has made it clear that its nuclear programme is none of Washington's business.

## Iranian radicals step up anti-British campaign

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian radicals challenging Tehran's more pragmatic leaders are mounting an increasingly strident anti-British campaign over author Salman Rushdie's controversial book "The Satanic Verses."

Shouting "Death to Britain" and "Death to apostate Salman Rushdie," some 500 university students demonstrated outside the British embassy in Nicosia Sunday demanding the release of an Iranian student held in Britain.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said that police protecting the embassy scuffled with students who attempted to break their cordon.

The radical protests over the student, Mehrdad Kowkabi, have embarrassed the government of pragmatic President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who restored ties with Britain only three months ago.

Sunday's protest was organised by the Muslim Students Association whose members seized the U.S. embassy in 1979 and held 52 staff hostage for 44 days.

Kowkabi went on trial in London Monday charged with fire-bombing a bookshop selling copies of the novel which many Muslims regard as blasphemous.

In September, Britain and Iran restored relations cut in March 1989 after the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini decreed Rushdie's death.

usurped Arab territory, in the forefront of the land and people of Palestine and the Golan, and free Arab wealth from corrupt rulers and foreign domination."

Echoing Saddam's Army Day address, the paper said:

"The aims of the mother of all battles will not be confined to national and Pan-Arab fighters; its traces and consequences will extend to all humanity."

It said Saddam had "frankly, clearly and unambiguously declared: 'We will fight in the mother of all battles and will win, and will accept nothing short of victory.'"

Al Thawra, of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, warned U.S. President George Bush of the "serious consequences and the heavy price he will pay should he launch an aggression on Iraq."

## Moscow and Washington once scrapped over Somalia

By Robert Evans  
Reuter

MOSCOW — When U.S. marines flew Soviet and American diplomats out of the battle-torn Somali capital of Mogadishu this weekend, it marked a farewell to years of super-power squabbling in the Horn of Africa.

Soviet television told millions of viewers Saturday night that Moscow's Ambassador Vladimir Kornev led his staff to safety in the United States embassy after his own mission had been invaded by armed groups.

It also reported that outgoing Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had telephoned Secretary of State James Baker to thank him as the Soviet officials and other foreign refugees were lifted by marine helicopter to a U.S. vessel

offshore.

Such cooperation would have been unthinkable throughout the 1970s and the first half of the 1980s as Moscow and Washington waged a fierce cold war struggle for influence in Somalia and its neighbour Ethiopia.

When then Major-General Mohammed Siad Barre seized power from a pro-Western regime in Mogadishu in 1969, he was wooed and won by the Kremlin as a counterweight to the Washington-backed Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.

Quickly, Soviet military and technical aid poured into Somalia through its main port of Berbera. Somalia's ministers flocked to Moscow and its military cadets were despatched to Soviet training schools.

Siad Barre, proclaiming himself an anti-imperialist re-

volutionary, was recognised by then Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev as a "comrade," a greeting long reserved for foreign communists, and feted in 1976 on a three-week Soviet visit.

Throughout this period, Washington complained that the Soviet navy was turning Berbera into a missile facility and base for a major presence in the Indian Ocean, threatening Middle East oil tankers.

But in 1977 the tide turned. Siad Barre, who with discreet Kremlin backing had long preached the unification of all Somali tribes, seized the opportunity of political turmoil in Ethiopia to invade his neighbour's Somali-populated Ogaden province.

The Somali leader flew to Moscow to plead his case. The Kremlin, already transporting its own advisers and Cuban troops to back the Ethiopians in the Ogaden, sent him home empty-handed.

Siad Barre then turned to the United States, but a still suspicious Washington offered

him full support only after his forces withdrew from the Ogaden in March 1978.

In a symbolic gesture that bore much weight in the Soviet Union of that period, a speech the "comrade" Somali president had made to a Soviet Communist Party congress in 1978 was deleted from an official record.

For years afterwards, Moscow and Washington swapped charges that each was plotting coups and counter-coups in Mogadishu and Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, and posing a threat to peace in the region with their arms supplies.

But under Mikhail Gorbachev, who came to power in 1985, the Kremlin has shown increasingly less interest in seeking to project its influence by military muscle or even economic aid — which it can ill afford to offer.

## CANADA

 THE ASSISTANT OF MR. JOHN GAROFI, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS I.E.C. LTD., MONTREAL, CANADA, WILL BE IN TOWN DURING THE PERIOD 8-11 JANUARY.

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## PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... "Fair" (Starline) Dala  
15:40 ..... "Programme review" ..... Koran  
15:45 ..... "Children programmes" ..... Children  
15:50 ..... "News Summary" ..... News  
15:55 ..... "Local programme" ..... Local  
15:56 ..... "Programme review" ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... "Programme review" ..... News in Arabic  
21:30 ..... "Programme review" ..... News in Arabic  
21:40 ..... "Local programme" ..... News in Arabic  
22:00 ..... "Charles in Charge" ..... Life Revolution  
22:05 ..... "Life Revolution" ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... "Charles in Charge" ..... Columbo

## PROGRAMME TWO

15:30 ..... "Cartoons" ..... Fair  
15:35 ..... "Documentary" ..... News in French  
15:45 ..... "News in French" ..... News  
15:50 ..... "Aujourd'hui en Jordanie" ..... News in Hebrew  
15:55 ..... "News in Hebrew" ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... "Charles in Charge" ..... Life Revolution  
20:45 ..... "Charles in Charge" ..... News in English  
22:00 ..... "Charles in Charge" ..... Columbo

## PRAYER TIMES

06:10 ..... "Fair" ..... Fair  
06:32 ..... "Starline" ..... Dala  
11:42 ..... "Dala" ..... Dala  
14:29 ..... "Ar" ..... Magreb  
16:52 ..... "Magreb" ..... Magreb  
18:14 ..... "Isha" ..... Isha

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds will increase gradually and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate

# Home News

Former Turkish prime minister sceptical about Geneva talks, but says dialogue better than nothing

## Ecevit: Majority of Turks does not support government's Gulf policy

By Saedi Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A majority of the people of Turkey, one of the key players in the anti-Iraqi alliance, does not support the government's approach to the Gulf crisis, and the shifting public opinion could influence Ankara's role in a potential military conflict in the region, according to former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit.

The strong anti-war attitude and opposition to the multinational forces assembled in the region as well as a growing debate among Turks over the issue will definitely affect the government's position, according to Ecevit, who is now chief editor of a leading Turkish daily.

"Apparently, the president of the republic follows a closer line to the American policy, but the Turkish public opinion is unanimously against military solution and against Turkish involvement in the problems among Arab countries," Ecevit told the Jordan Times in an interview. "I am confident that the Turkish public opinion will prevail on the government," he said shortly before his departure from Amman after attending a roundtable on the impact of the Gulf crisis on the peoples of the region and that of a military confrontation on the

world.

Ecevit, who conducted one of the first interviews with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and came under fierce criticism, will be honoured by the Turkish Journalists Association for the same interview.

"This proves the change that occurred among the Turkish people from the beginning of the crisis until now," said Ecevit. "All the opposition parties have reservations about the policy of the president, and I think that the will of the people will (eventually) prevail."

Not only have the Turkish people become more opposed to western interference in the Gulf crisis, but they also disapprove of the build-up of U.S. airforce bases in Turkey.

"Turkish public opinion is disturbed by the positioning of airforces or any other military units from other countries on our soil," Ecevit said. "The Turkish people are unanimously against military solution and they are also against Turkish involvement in the problems among Arab countries."

Ecevit insisted that the Gulf crisis must be solved within an Arab context. "If the involvement of the United States and West European countries in the Middle East problems continues, it would be difficult to seize the crisis." The former

prime minister said. "It is for this reason that I wish a process of a meaningful dialogue between the regional countries themselves should start without delay and without the interference of outside powers."

In his efforts to seek a diplomatic solution and save the countries most hit from the economic losses they incurred, Ecevit called for a United Nations fund that must be established with a contribution from rich countries which are benefiting from the crisis in order to alleviate the burden of Jordan and other countries.

"I am not optimistic at the moment; the rich countries have been treating Jordan in a cruel way," he pointed out. "We have to try to build up a public opinion in this respect, and though I am not in the government I will do anything (in my power) to activate public opinion."

In the interview Ecevit sounded sceptical about this week's meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of state James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz. At the same time, he did not rule out a positive outcome to the meeting. "Any conference is better than no conference," he said. "However, so far, neither Iraq nor the United States seem to be inclined towards a fruitful dialogue, but I hope that this



Bulent Ecevit

meeting will help prevent a military conflict. But even in talking, both sides should be more careful about the psychological impact of the language they use."

Ecevit warned of the possible outcome of American involvement and intervention in middle eastern conflicts. "In spite of the fact that the United States is at the other end of the world it has de facto become a middle eastern power and an omnipotent one, and this disturbs me a lot," he said. "It appears to me that this is the beginning of a new era of colonialisation."

## Hammad urges closure of border with Iraq unless aid received

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government appointed committee in charge of the evacuees from the Gulf is urging the government to close the Iraqi-Jordanian border to prevent any influx of evacuees in the event of war unless financial aid promised by the United Nations or other organisations starts arriving.

Salamah Hammad, Chairman of the Evacuees Welfare Committee, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Monday that his team had prepared a detailed report, to be submitted to the government, demanding that the Iraqi-Jordanian border be closed to all evacuees unless the committee receives financial and in-kind assistance promised by the United Nations and the world community.

Presently Jordan is handling the repatriation of 4,000 Vietnamese evacuees in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The Kingdom accommodated and offered transport, health and food services to nearly 865,000 evacuees of different nationalities, including Egyptians and Asians, over the past four months, according to Hammad.

Jordan is expected, in the coming few days, to witness a new flood of evacuees crossing from Iraq as a result of the developments in the Gulf pending on the outcome of the talks in Geneva between the U.S. and Iraqi foreign ministers, said Hammad.

"But should there be no progress towards solving the crisis

peacefully, Jordan is bound to witness a fresh influx of large numbers of evacuees of various nationalities," he said.

Hammad noted that Iraq now has nearly two million foreign nationals, most of whom would be fleeing the country should adverse circumstances emerge; most probably they would be heading towards the Jordanian border.

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A statement issued at the end of a roundtable in Amman over the weekend said that international contributions to alleviate Jordan's burden and suffering have been discouraging. Only \$12 million had been received by Jordan as reimbursement for the \$5 million it spent to assist the evacuees between August and November 1990, the statement

published Monday said.

The roundtable participants stressed that the consequences of any crisis would be devastating in terms of human, economic, social and perhaps even environmental suffering. Jordan, which has already been hard hit by the crisis, would find itself in even greater economic and social peril, said the participants in their statement following the final session chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Following the influx of thousands of evacuees, Prince Hassan and senior government officials issued one appeal after another to the world community officials issued one appeal after another to the world community to extend assistance to Jordan to cope with the crisis. Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Mass'adeh later said the delay in response to Jordan's appeals could be politically motivated.

According to Hammad, his committee had worked out a plan over the past two months, in cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies operating in the Middle East and

with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who is serving as the personal envoy of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, to supervise humanitarian assistance to the evacuees.

"So far the world community did not respond favourably to the plan and no aid was forthcoming," Hammad complained.

Hammad described the handling of the evacuees' affairs over the past months as a nightmare. "More than 1.5 million persons passed through Jordanian territories since Aug. 2 1990, when Iraq took over Kuwait, but 865,000 evacuees, mostly Asians had to be housed at makeshift camps in the country," he said.

"The evacuees' problem is a problem for the whole international community, and not for Jordan alone, and therefore various nations and organisations are expected to extend a helping hand," Hammad added.

Hammad expressed appreciation to the few nations and organisations which responded to Jordan's call so far and sent in relief supplies and financial aid to the committee to help it shoulder its humanitarian mission.

## De Marco says Palestinian leaders ready to reach peace with Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.N. General Assembly President Guido de Marco Monday wound up a three-day visit to Jordan by describing the Palestinian refugee camps in the Israeli-held Arab territories as concentration camps under Nazi Germany, and said that the Jews, having served as victims in those camps, have no right to persecute the Palestinians in the same manner.

Addressing a press conference at Amman Plaza Hotel little before departing for Cairo in the course of his current Middle East tour, de Marco said that he felt through his contacts with Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories their full readiness to teach a just peace with the Israelis; he added that the Palestinian people were determined to go on resisting Israel's occupation with all means until they achieve their national aspirations.

"The human dimension in the Palestine problem is not re-

stricted to ensuring basic services to the residents of the occupied territories, but rather to ensure the basic rights of the Palestinian people to determine their own future on their own land," said de Marco, who is also Malta's foreign minister.

He said that he had found no positive or favourable response on the part of the Israeli government to the idea of an international conference.

De Marco, who toured refugee camps in the occupied territories before visiting camps in Jordan, said he would submit a report on his tour to the U.N. General Assembly and would discuss his findings with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

De Marco appealed for justice and said that the Palestinians stand more in need of international reassurances, that their cause is not forgotten and that they are demanding protection against Israeli practices.

Upon his departure, de Marco was seen off by Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin and other government officials.

## Infant kidnapped from hospital

AMMAN (J.T.) — A newly born baby reported kidnapped from Al Bashir Hospital in Amman Sunday, in the first incident of its kind in the Kingdom, was reported still missing Monday despite strenuous efforts on the part of the police and the hospital authorities to find him and the two women allegedly involved in the kidnapping operation.

Director of Al Bashir Hospital, Dr. Yousef Issa, said that the baby boy was still missing more than 24 hours after his parents reported the matter to the hospital management.

He told the Jordan Times that the police are now handling the matter and intensifying efforts to find the baby, which, according to earlier reports, was kidnapped by two women posing as doctors making rounds in the maternity ward.

Dr. Issa said he heard nothing

## CAA denies rumours of airports closure

Airport sources told the Jordan Times that flights headed for the United States and Europe were overbooked, ahead of the Jan. 15 deadline, and Royal Jordanian officials said that the national carrier's four weekly flights to New York as well as other flights to Europe were fully booked all the time.

Some European countries have also issued advisory notes asking their nationals to refrain from visiting the Middle East at present.

Diplomatic sources said that the several Asian countries were gearing up to evacuate their nationals in the event of war becoming a reality after the deadline.

## Illiteracy stands at 20%, but gradually declining

AMMAN (J.T.) — By the end of the past year, 1990, the illiteracy rate in Jordan stood at 20 per cent, but this is gradually reduced at the rate of one per cent a year to reach nearly 10 per cent by the end of the present century, according to a senior official from the Ministry of Education Monday.

Speaking on the eve of the Arab day for eradicating illiteracy, Khaled Al Sheikhi, director of the ministry's General Education Department said that the illiterates are mostly those above 45 years of age, but the ministry's schools and evening classes are bound to greatly diminish the present rates by the year 2000.

The Ministry of Education is now implementing adult education programmes on a wide scale in the Jordan Valley and in 61 remote villages in Jordan.

"The ministry, which is implementing the programmes as of the beginning of next month, is acquiring financial support from a number of organisations to achieve that end," the minister added. "The Ministry of Education, he added, is conducting surveys to implement similar projects in the country during the 1991-1992 scholastic year.

## Ministry of Education to reinstate 80 teachers

### Iranian minister accepts invitation to visit Jordan

By P.V. Vivekamand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amid continuing Jordanian-Iranian contacts towards resuming diplomatic relations, an Iranian minister has accepted a formal invitation to visit Jordan, informed sources said Monday.

The invitation to Iranian Health Minister Irayez Faz was extended by Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben, the then Jordanian health minister, during a meeting in Damascus in October and Tehran has sent a formal letter accepting the invitation, the sources said.

The Damascus meeting grouped regional health ministers and was organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

No date has been set for the visit, but the Iranian response to the invitation is seen as a key indicator of Tehran's desire to restore formal relations with Amman, severed in the early days of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, a senior official said.

In September, Jordan's then foreign minister, Marwan Al Qasem, met with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati at the United Nations and discussed Jordanian-Iranian relations.

Teheran Radio, which is close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry,

and several Iranian newspapers played up the prime minister's comments but there was no official comment.

The Iranian government has formalised a proposal to restore relations with Jordan and submitted it to the Majlis (parliament). It was not immediately known whether the Majlis had endorsed the proposal.

Several members of the Jordanian Parliament have visited Tehran over the past months. According to observers, even some of the hardline Iranians who used to criticise the Muslim Brotherhood of Jordan as a "lackey" of the establishment are showing increased respect for Jordanian Brotherhood parliamentarians.

The Iranian source in New York said Iran appreciated the political position adopted by Jordan towards the Gulf crisis. He said Tehran also sympathised with Jordan's position of being caught in the middle of the crisis.

"Jordan is the victim of a Western conspiracy," asserted the source. "Its experience with the West, particularly the United States, is typical of many countries," he added.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has learned the lesson the hard way and this forms the core of our approach to relations with the West."

### Projected teachers' union to improve their status

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After many months of efforts and debates between Jordanian teachers on one side, and the Ministry of Education and Parliament on the other, in order to form a teachers' union, the minister of education, Dr. Abdulla Akileh, recently welcomed the idea of one being established.

"Special attention is needed for the educational sector. We must provide, without doubt, a unionist organisation and enhance its technical viability. It is an important and vital need to continue developing and serving this sector," Akileh said in a declaration, Thursday.

According to the general secretary of the General Union for Private School Teachers, Mazen Maaithah, "we have fought for this union to be set up because we want to see the teacher protected." He explained that with the union established, the teachers would, automatically, get more protection.

Maaithah told the Jordan Times that "the teacher exerts a lot of effort physically and men-

tally in preparing for exams and the curriculum." Because of the low pay, and the low social status the teacher has, sometimes they resort to other jobs to support themselves and their families. "With this union, we hope that the financial, economic and social status of the teacher will be enhanced," Maaithah added.

Although teachers involved in the creation of the union were not available for questioning, specialists are of the opinion that the teaching profession is extremely important in defending the country and shaping thought, especially now that Jordan is facing hardships.

If approved, the union would offer protection to workers and teachers within the Ministry of Education, according to Maaithah. "Among the proposed laws there is the one that would set up a head office in Amman and establish branch offices throughout the Kingdom.

One existing union, Maaithah explained, is the General Union for Private School Teachers, which deals with the private schools.

The teachers' union will take effect as soon as its laws are approved, according to Maaithah. "A draft set of laws has been requested by 11 parliamentarians. We are waiting for Parliament to acknowledge it."

A Royal Jordanian Cargo plane chartered by UNICEF will make two flights between Copenhagen and Amman over the next two days, ferrying essential drugs and medical supplies to replenish Jordan's emergency medical stocks.

The first flight is expected Tuesday, January 8 and the second on the following day. UNICEF, through these two shipments, worth \$556,000, is responding to appeals by Jordan to make up for medical supplies already used up during the summer vacancie relief operation and in preparation for any future events.

A separate shipment of 18,000 blankets worth around \$100,000 is expected at Aqaba Port on January 18.

UNICEF's contributions towards Jordan's emergency relief operation for Gulf evacuees had amounted, up to the end of 1990, to over \$2.2 million, in cash and kind and covered supplies of tents, blankets, mattresses, water tanks and detergents.

Building of latrines, water supplies and costs of local transport of relief supplies to transit sites and the management of evacuee camps were and will continue to be provided by UNICEF in Jordan.

Dr. Issa said he heard nothing so far from the police and he assumed that the search was still going on and the police were investigating into the case.

A report in Al Rai's daily said Monday that the baby boy was taken from his mother only eight hours after being born.

The mother, identified only as Aysheh, was quoted as saying that soon after giving birth to the baby boy two women, posing as doctors, visited the maternity ward and started examining mothers and their newly born babies.

One of the two women told Aysheh that her baby was not well and that she was taking him to the incubators section; that was the last she saw of her baby.

According to the report, the husband, accompanied by his father in law, came two hours later to enquire about the health of the baby at the incubators section, but was shocked to learn that no newly born babies had arrived on that day.

They reported the matter to the hospital authorities which in turn called in the police.

Extensive search throughout Al Bashir Hospital did not lead to any trace of the baby or the two imposters, according to the report.

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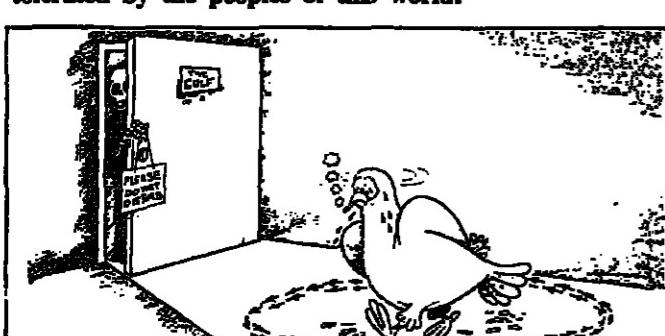
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## World and crucial role in the Gulf

THE EYES of the world are all focused on the Baker-Aziz talks in Geneva on Wednesday to see if a breakthrough can still be achieved over the standoff in the Gulf. But, the odds appear not to be in favour of ending the stalemate between Baghdad and Washington in view of the apparent hardening of positions on both sides on the eve of the Iraqi-U.S. talks. It is nevertheless still possible to regard the declared postures of both parties as mere bargaining positions that need not reflect their respective final stances. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is not likely to have taken all the trouble of arranging the meeting with his Iraqi counterpart simply to hand over a written message from President Bush. Baker has distinguished himself as a consummate negotiator, and on the basis of his abilities and his credentials as a statesman, one would expect that he will also engage the Iraqi side in meaningful "negotiations" or "discussions" or whatever they are called to avert war in the Gulf. There is no doubt that — rationally at least — the U.S. would want to avoid war because it recognises the high price of military confrontation. Neither the American public nor the U.S. Congress would stomach a devastating war in the Gulf when the stakes are not that great from the U.S. national interest's point of view. Likewise, it cannot be presumed that Baghdad is looking for a fight because it also understands the magnitude of war and fully appreciates its disastrous consequences.

Meanwhile, the international community cannot afford to see Iraq and the U.S. locked irrevocably in an armed conflict that neither side can be presumed to want. As the impact of any such catastrophe would touch many in this world, the public of every nation has a right to intervene to stop war from occurring. Belatedly, the Organisation of Islamic States (OIS) began to rouse itself from its slumber and is now considering mediation in the Gulf crisis. This is a positive development that deserves the support of all sides. The Pope has already issued an appeal on behalf of humanity calling on Washington and Baghdad to forego war and find another way to deal with the situation in that part of the world. Nearly all the church groups in the U.S., including President Bush's own church, have also made emotional appeals against the resort to arms. Surely the voices in support of the peace option deserve to be heeded for they represent the voices of the greater majority of mankind. Certainly the self-destructive stance now dominating the Gulf scene is untenable and should not be tolerated by the peoples of this world.



## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday, 11 tribute to the Iraqi Armed Forces on their 70th anniversary, and said that these forces are now confronting the most serious challenge since their creation, but are more determined than ever to repel aggression. The Iraqi Armed Forces are now confronting the invaders, the aggressors and the unholy alliance which has been gathered from around the world to wage war on the Arabs and subdue their free will, said the paper. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi men are alert and ready to defend their sacred soil and to defend the nation despite the many odds they are faced with and the formidable foe equipped with mass-destruction weapons and all forms of war machinery, the paper continued. Behind these troops lie millions of Arabs who share with the Iraqi people their hopes and aspirations, and support their endeavour to protect their homeland and deal ignominious defeat to the enemy, the paper added. The development of the huge forces and warships in the Gulf, the paper said, helped to increase the Iraqi people and armed forces resolve to fight and win the battle against the invaders and the traitors to the Arab causes. The Iraqi Armed Forces, the paper concluded, are determined to rid the Arabs of the feeling of submission, fear of the colonialists and bring new hope to the millions of Arabs everywhere.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily criticises the American administration and President Bush for their attitude concerning the U.S.-Iraqi talks in Geneva on Jan. 9. As the dates for the rarely drawn near, Bush and his administration officials are not de-escalating their war tone but, on the contrary, are issuing provocative statements, further escalating tension which is not conducive to peace, the paper noted. Bush had said that he will use the Geneva meeting as a forum to issue a final ultimatum to Baghdad to withdraw its forces from Kuwait, and that he is determined to wage war on Iraq should it refuse to comply, the paper noted. Bush, the paper added, is hoping to intimidate the Iraqi leadership and the Iraqi Armed Forces who are celebrating the armed forces 70th anniversary with renewed pledges to pursue efforts aiming to defeat the invaders and to liberate the Arabian peninsula from foreign forces. The paper said that although Iraq is willing to respond favourably to various peace bids, it is no doubt more determined than ever to defend the Arab homeland. Iraq, the paper added, does not fear war threats, and its determination can never wane although it is going to Geneva with an olive branch. The paper said that the world is watching the outcome of the Geneva meeting and hopes that Bush will finally listen to the call of reason and common sense.

## Israel fears a peace that pleases Iraq

By G. G. Labelle  
*The Associated Press*

TEL AVIV — One thing frightens Israel almost as much as Iraq drawing the world into a war: Iraq drawing the world in a Middle East peace conference that gives outsiders a say in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israelis are edgy about Wednesday's planned meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz. They see in it the potential for realising their two worst nightmares.

First, a peaceful Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait could leave Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in power, with his most formidable Arab army facing Israel.

Second, it could foster an international conference on the Middle East, which would discuss Israel's 23-year-old occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, many Israelis have said that the only satisfactory resolution of the Gulf crisis would be the destruction of Saddam and Iraq's military machine.

Any other solution, the daily Yedioth Ahronoth wrote soon after the invasion, "would mean that we would remain here alone with Saddam and his mad ambitions, and only four minutes from his missile launchers and chemical bombs."

Joseph Alpher, a military analyst at Tel Aviv's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, made the same point Sunday in releasing a new study on regional military power.

"Success in the conflict with Saddam Hussein has to mean more than getting him out of Kuwait," he told reporters. "It has to mean a 'defanging' operation, of seriously cutting down to size the Iraqi military industrial potential, and beyond that of getting rid of Saddam's regime."

Newspapers have quoted unnamed Israeli officials as

saying the Israeli army would destroy Saddam if the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf doesn't. These reports have always been officially denied.

As bad as the possibility of Saddam's survival, in the Israeli view, is the suggestion that the Baker-Aziz meeting will achieve what Saddam has demanded for five months: a linkage between Iraq's rule over Kuwait and Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Only 10 days after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Saddam started saying he would negotiate a pullout if Israel would withdraw from the territories occupied from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel immediately rejected that suggestion and the phrase "no linkage" has become embedded ever since in the Israeli political lexicon.

The Israeli view is that Saddam gained Kuwait by aggression, while Israel's capture of Arab land resulted from a pre-emptive attack on Arab armies that were about to invade the Jewish state.

This week, however, European reports from unnamed sources have said a secret deal is afoot to have Saddam leave Kuwait in exchange for, among other things, an international peace conference on the Middle East.

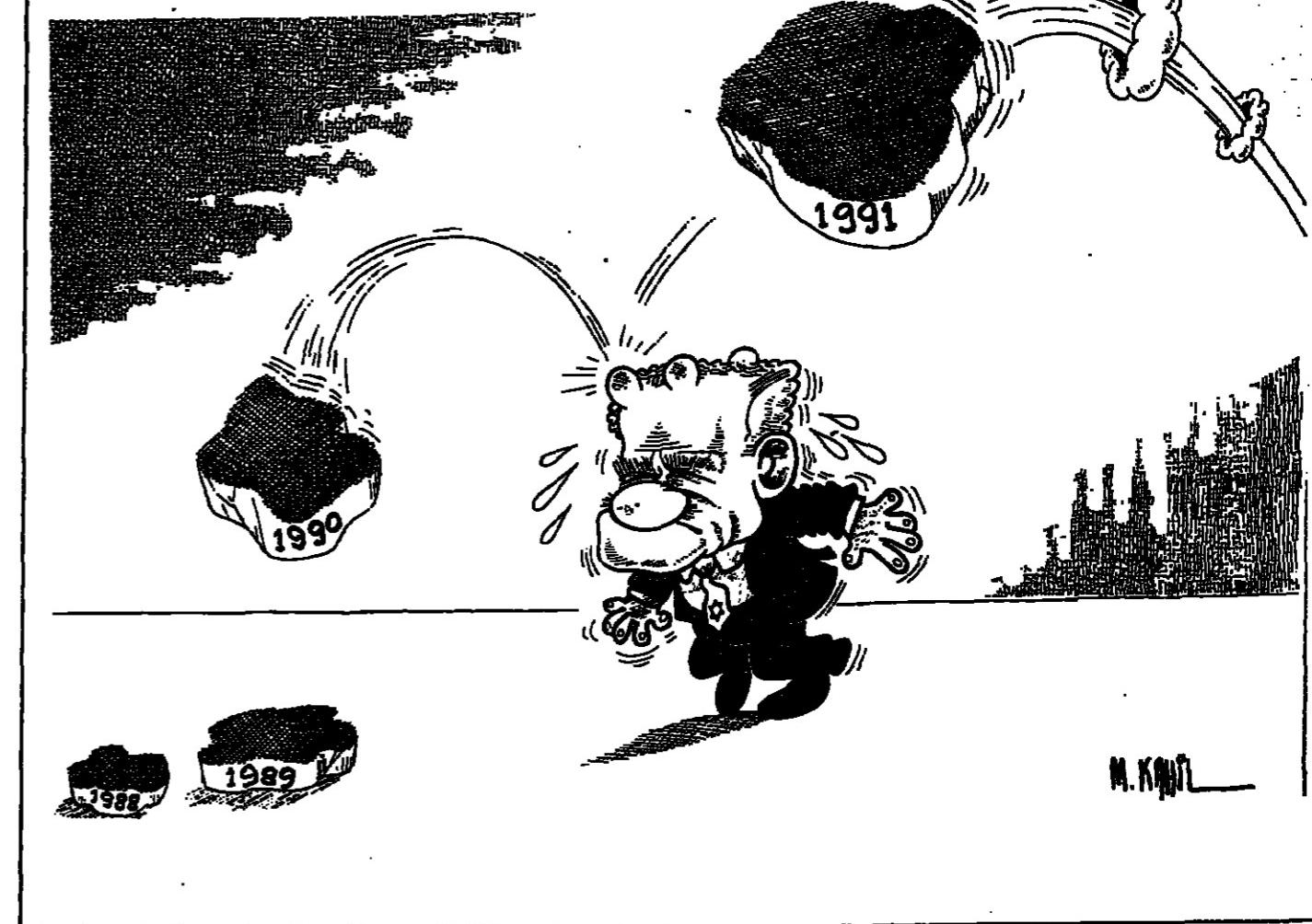
This conference could consider Iraq's claims against Kuwait, as well as Israel's rule over the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Israeli President Yitzhak Shamir on Sunday appeared willing to hold some negotiations.

Speaking on a French radio show, Shamir said he was prepared to receive Arab leaders, including Saddam, to discuss peace with Israel.

He said his country was "ready and even interested" to "negotiate with the Arab World a solution to our conflict."

Arab countries have not responded in the past to Israeli



offers for direct talks.

Israel has long opposed a peace conference on a global scale. It fears the Arabs, backed by Third World allies in the United Nations and possibly even the superpowers, could force concessions from Israel.

The concession most feared by Shamir and his right-wing government would be giving up the occupied lands, which many Israelis view as well as theirs by biblical promise.

But some left-wingers have suggested that Israel upstage Saddam by launching its own peace initiative.

In Sunday's Jerusalem Post, Arieh Yaari of the Tel Aviv-based International Centre for Peace in the Middle East urged that Israel propose talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization, saying:

"We should most emphatically not await the end of a

crisis, which will only make things far worse for us. We should make the most unexpected move..."

Jaffee Centre head Aharon Yariv, a respected former chief of military intelligence, said: "I don't think there is anything we have to be afraid of."

"I think we should at least be prepared...psychologically, politically and militarily, for negotiations," he said at a news conference.

Sunday's newspapers and radio broadcasts were full of fears that the United States — despite assurances from President George Bush — would agree to link the Iraqi and Israeli questions to avoid war.

The daily Hadashot editorialised: "We believe the Americans when they say there will be no secret negotiations, no linkage...But still, there is a strange feeling in the stomach."

A Belgian peace activist said he met Monday with Iraq's ambassador who gave him a letter saying Iraq wants a total disarmament of the Middle East and "serious" peace talks for the region.

Lecon de Pas, a sculptor and peace activist, said he met for almost an hour with Zaid Haider, Iraq's envoy to Belgium and the European Community. He bore a letter from Haider that said, "far be it from us to want war and we are ready...to build a more social and just world."

The letter said Baghdad "accepts the principle of a complete and verifiable disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East, including Israel and Iran."

Also, it said, "Iraq was ready to have a serious and in-depth dialogue about peace and stability in the region of

the Middle East" and Iraq was ready to do its share to help relieve suffering in the world.

De Pas said in an interview he plans to go to Baghdad to meet with President Saddam, but could not say when.

The letter he carried was written on Iraqi embassy stationery and signed by the ambassador. The embassy could not be reached for comment.

De Pas said he talked with Haider after writing the envoy a letter last week asking if Iraq was prepared to devote 25 per cent of its budget to help relieve "hunger, misery (and) epidemics" worldwide.

"It is clear," wrote the envoy in his letter, "Iraq is ready to agree to all efforts by people of goodwill to rescue the least favoured populations even if these efforts are as great as you suggest."

## Catholicism strives to survive in E. Europe

By Philip Pullella  
*Reuter*

VATICAN CITY — Persecution by Marxist regimes galvanised religious fervour in Eastern Europe, but Roman Catholicism is striving to keep the faith alive now that Communism is defeated.

The church, which for so many years gloried in a martyr's crown behind the iron curtain, faces a much harder task of retaining its hold on popular masses in a democratic era.

Throughout the newly democratic countries in Eastern Europe, cardinals, bishops and priests are working hard to rebuild churches once severely restricted or even declared dead by governments.

They are reopening or enlarging seminaries, restoring church buildings, reclaiming confiscated properties and expanding religious education programmes.

Pope John Paul has enlisted the large Jesuit Order to help with the huge task and lay Catholics are being asked to teach the faith — a role once punishable by arrest.

But some Vatican officials worry that the new-found freedoms may lead to a less vibrant Catholicism and diminished importance for the church, now that it is no longer playing David to Communism's Goliath.

The changes which swept Eastern Europe in 1989 brought a diplomatic windfall for the Vatican which should help boost local churches.

By the end of 1990, the Soviet Union and all East European countries except Albania had established full diplomatic relations or exchanged envoys with the Holy See.

The ties have opened a new horizon for trips by the Polish-born Pope, history's first pontiff to come from a Communist country and the church's most travelled leader.

This year he will make two trips to his homeland and one to Hungary — the first visits to those countries since diplomatic relations were forged with the Vatican.

He is expected to make a full pastoral visit to Czechoslovakia in 1992 after last year's lightning trip there to pay tribute to Prague's fledgling democracy.

Bulgaria and Romania have also invited him.

As the new year begins, Vatican officials have their eyes trained on Albania, the last hardline Communist state in Eastern Europe to show signs of



a thaw.

Albanian Catholics held their first public Christmas mass in 23 years in December after President Ramiz Alia lifted a ban on religion imposed by the late Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha.

The big question remains when the first Slavic Pope will visit the Soviet Union, an event as inconceivable only a few years ago as the dismantling of the Berlin Wall.

"The problem of a papal visit to the Soviet Union is no longer one of principle or ideology but one of concrete diplomatic work," said Yuri Karlov, Moscow's first ambassador to the Holy See. "There are no more prejudices on either side."

"Certainly the Pope's trip to the Soviet Union is not just any visit. It is a happening and must be well prepared."

Last November, when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev made his second visit to the Vatican in under a year, he told the pontiff: "The next time we

meet, it will be at my place."

The Pope's ambassador to Moscow is busy trying to establish what kind of secret structure the underground church set up during the years of persecution.

Before a papal trip to the Soviet Union, the Vatican would like to see an easing of tensions between the Ukrainian Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches.

The two have been at odds over restitution of church buildings which were confiscated from the Catholics when they were suppressed in 1945 and given to the Orthodox church.

Vatican officials and diplomats say they expect the Pope to visit the Soviet Union in 1992, making stops in the Ukraine as well as heavily Catholic Lithuania.

Although the Pope's travel schedule for this year is full they do not exclude the possibility of a quick, symbolic, one-stop trip to the Soviet Union before then, perhaps to attend a religious celebration.

China seeks stronger voice in 'new world'

By Guy Dimmore  
*Reuter*

BEIJING — China's foreign policy has taken a change of course with Beijing seeking a stronger voice in what it sees as an emerging "new world order," diplomats said Monday.

The new approach, born out of the end of the cold war and Japan's own bid to play a greater role in world affairs, could become the most significant shift in China's foreign strategy since it launched its open-door reforms in the late 1970s.

"The era in which the two superpowers fiercely contended and rivalled each other for world hegemony has essentially ended," Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said in an interview published on Monday in the official Beijing Review.

"Currently the world situation is in a transitional period in which the old order has collapsed yet a new one has not taken shape," Qian said.

Numerous official commentaries have recently characterised the world as moving away from bi-polar domination by the United States and the Soviet Union towards multi-polarisation with Europe, Japan and China — the voice of the Third World — seeking greater roles than before.

China is the only developing country with the power of veto as one of five permanent members on the United Nations Security Council.

"In the 1980s the West could basically count China as a cooperative partner within the U.N. Western diplomat commented.

People's Daily, voice of the Chinese Communist Party, last week published a tough condemnation of what Beijing calls superpower domination of the United Nations:

"The United States and other Western countries are using the current dramatically changing world situation to peddle their value concepts within the U.N., striving to force their so-called 'democracy' and 'human rights' and

"Many Chinese enterprises now depend on foreign investment," a Chinese economist commented.

"China's foreign policy has to be softer. They need the money."

## White South African finds love in troubled black township

By Rich Mkhondo

**KUTLOANONG**, South Africa — Silvano Gregorin, a white South African of Italian parentage, is not worried by political violence in this dusty black township or the recent brutal murders of four fellow whites. He has found his love here.

He loves his black girlfriend Dikedi Makume and has cut most ties with his family and a strong Italian community to live with her in Kutoanong, which means "place of harmony" in the language of the Sotho black tribe.

"Love is love to me, it does not know any colour," Gregorin said.

After a rampaging mob killed four whites in Kutoanong late last year, police in the adjacent town of Odendaalsrus asked whites not to visit the troubled township 300 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg.

Thirty-three people, some as young as 14, have been linked to the murder. The court case is due to take place later this month.

Gregorin and his girlfriend, who live in a small four-roomed bungalow, met six years ago at a non-racial discotheque he owned in the nearby town of Welkom.

Life in the conservative mining town — scene of bitter clashes last year between blacks and white vigilante groups — became untenable because of constant intimidation but it did not cool their love.

The couple moved to Odendaalsrus but neighbourhood disapproval forced them to leave their town-centre flat a few months later and go to Kutoanong.

The prohibition of mixed marriages act, which outlawed marriages between whites and members of other races, was scrapped in June 1985 in one of former President P.W. Botha's limited reforms of apartheid race segregation laws.

## Garlic — more than a seasoning

By Randall Mikkelsen  
Reuters

**STOCKHOLM** — What's the perfect dessert for a meal of marinated garlic cloves and a "transylvania vampire steak" covered with roasted garlic, washed down with shots of garlic vodka?

Chocolate-covered garlic and ice-cream, of course.

At Broderia Olsson (the olsson brothers) restaurants in Stockholm's bohemian Södermalm District, garlic has become more than a seasoning, it is a reason for being.

"Everybody who leaves this restaurant should be garlic-poisoned. That's our mission here in Stockholm," said Ola Olsson, who started the restaurant with his brother, Jonas, about a year ago.

The two chefs are scouting for a location in London to spread their spicy mission abroad.

Diners at Broderia Olsson can enjoy all the delights of the culinary world provided they like garlic.

"We refuse to serve any thing here without it," Ola Olsson said.

But even with the law change, mixed couples still have a problem of where to live.

The group areas act, one of several laws regulating daily life according to skin colour, bars blacks from living in a white suburb even if married to a white.

Since 1985, 101 whites have married blacks, 2,203 whites have married mixed-race coloureds and 797 whites have married people of Indian descent.

President F.W. Klerk has promised that the group areas act and other race laws will be scrapped this year under his political reforms which aim to enfranchise the voteless black majority.

Gregorin and Makume are the third inter-racial couple to live in Kutoanong, which has been at the forefront of anti-apartheid activities in the conservative Orange Free State province.

The township shot into the limelight in 1988 when a young Afrikaner (Dutch-descended) woman, Annette Hemis, defied her parents, the church and the white residents of Odendaalsrus to elope with her black Romeo, martial arts instructor Jerry Tse.

They lived happily in Kutoanong for three years but then moved to the nominally independent black homeland of Bophuthatswana after receiving threats from whites in Odendaalsrus.

Another white man left after his loved died in a car crash.

Gregorin said the murders of the four whites, who were on their way to a township bar, were brutal but should not be interpreted as a racial onslaught.

His main concern is for his girlfriend.

"It is not easy for her even to go into the white town these days. I am scared about what would happen," he said.

"For myself I do not mind. If my time comes, it comes. But I do not want anything to happen to her."

Pleas for mercy, citing circumstances where a blast of garlic-tainted breath might be socially incorrect, go unheeded. "You can order extra garlic, but you can't order less," he said.

But the customer at Broderia Olsson is not taken unawares. Below a lighted sign advertising "garlic and shots," the window of the narrow restaurant displays crates of white garlic bulbs. Inside, menu selections chalked on a blackboard are copious in their reference to garlic.

The atmosphere is a lively combination of cheap diner and cluttered office.

A large bulletin board holds a blizzard of calling cards and other paper scraps. Black-and-white family photos hang askew on the walls, watched over by a plastic michevin man. And a long shelf is lined with bottles of ominous-looking chilli sauces from around the world.

House specialities include a steak piled high with minced garlic, and the daring transylvanian vampire steak, which swims in a blood-red chilli sauce under a thick layer of horseradish and a topping of about a dozen roasted garlic cloves.

"Garlic shots" offered on the menu are a particularly vicious measure of flavoured vodka. It would be a rare and brave drinker who ordered two.

Each-table comes with a small container of fresh parsley, reputed to minimise garlic's aftertaste and affect on the breath. But parsley fights a losing battle against the onslaught of a broderia Olsson meal.

By dessert time, the taste buds have been so bombarded that garlic in the cheesecake or ice cream adds little more than background to the traditional ingredients.

But the restaurant has its admirers, and plenty of them. The tables are nearly always full at suppertime, and it has received rave reviews in the local press. Customers say a little dose of garlic is a nice change from traditional Swedish cooking.

Most of the restaurant's customers are unbowed by the potent combination of garlic and intimacy, and many a romantic couple has sat down to a full-blown garlic feast, Olsson said.

"It's a lovely spice. It goes with Swedish food quite well," said garlic fan Jan Andersson, a Stockholm student who enjoyed a plate of tandoori noodles with a friend, Ann-Kristin Gneib.

In



Modern medicine has only made little headway in Haiti, where there is a strong sprinkling of voodoo in every sphere of social life

## Haiti — the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere

**POR-AU-PRINCE (R)** — These are the key facts about Haiti.

Population( 6,147,000 (estimation). Most are black with a minority of Mulattoes. About 80 per cent are Roman Catholic but most also believe in voodoo.

Area: 10,700 square miles (17,219 sq. km.). Haiti occupies the western third of Caribbean island of Hispaniola, the rest is the Dominican Republic.

Capital: Port-Au-Prince (Pop. Est. 1,200,000 in 1987).

Defence: Total about 8,400

government was formed, led by Lieutenant-General Henri Namphy, which promised to restore democracy.

General elections in 1987 were suspended due to violence.

The four main opposition candidates boycotted January, 1988 elections after a new law barred observers from polling booths.

Political scientist Leslie Manigat won the vote, which foreign observers said was rigged by the military. He became president on Feb. 7, the anniversary of Duvalier's downfall.

In three months the brief experiment with democracy ended. Namphy staged a coup and appointed himself president. Manigat went into exile in Venezuela. Namphy clamped down on dissent, aided by the Tontons Macoute.

But in September 1988, Macoute thugs attacked a Port-au-Prince Church, and six days later, presidential guardsmen deposed Namphy and declared Lieutenant General Prosper Avril the new president.

The country was teetering on the brink of anarchy. Young soldiers soon rebelled against officers they believed tied to the Macoutes.

Avril calmed the revolts, fired many officers and promised democracy. But he faced continuing opposition and on April 2, 1989, narrowly survived a coup attempt after sacking a group of officers he accused of links with drug trafficking.

Fellow officers arrested him and were about to expel him from Haiti when he was rescued by loyal presidential guardsmen.

In 1990, another serious chal-

lenge to his rule emerged. Despite his promise to hold presidential elections, Avril had several prominent opposition figures arrested, beaten up and exiled in January 1990.

And by March, popular anger had mounted too — protesters marched on his palace and violence spread to other towns.

On March 11, 1990, Avril finally fell. Supreme court justice Ertha Pascal-Trouillot became head of a provisional government on March 13. She was to work with a quasi-legislative council of state, representing all sectors of Haitian society.

Trouillot was to have turned power over next month to a populist priest, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was a landslide winner in Dec. 16 presidential elections. Haiti's first free and peaceful polls ever.

But relations between Trouillot and the council were always rocky. The Trouillot government seemed on the brink of falling several times.

Her willingness to rein in the Duvalierists also seemed in doubt, particularly after feared former interior minister Roger Lafontant returned from exile last July 7, and openly tried to re-united the Duvalierists.

Lafontant formed a political party, the Union for National Reconciliation, in October, but the provisional electoral council disqualified him from the presidential contest.

On Jan. 6, gunfire broke out around the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince and early on Jan. 7 Lafontant's forces announced he had overthrown Trouillot.

The provisional president said in a brief radio statement she was stepping down.

## New York streets are mean

By Verena Dobnik  
The Associated Press

handful of people who turned out for the tour despite a rain.

At Columbus Circle, Stafford pointed to the spot where reputed mobster Joe Colombo was gunned down during an Italian-American unity rally in 1971. Colombo lingered for seven years in a Semicoma.

Also on the tour is the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Centre, where in 1980 the body of a musician was found. She was murdered during the interim of a ballerina by a stagehand who attacked her with a hammer in an elevator, forced her to the roof, tied her up, undressed her and kicked her down a shaft.

The tour ended at 1 W. 72nd St., where Lennon was killed in 1980 by a deranged fan after coming home from a recording session.

Mary Ann Okleson, who took the \$10 tour, said she became interested in crime lore after she was the victim of financial fraud perpetrated by a man who was later shot and is now in prison. She said her testimony helped convict him.

"Some people really like the tours, others are kind of shocked because we talk about murder, crime, sex, drugs and the mafia," Stafford said.

"Ever since then, I've been reading the New York Post," said Okleson, referring to a tabloid newspaper that is big on crime news.

The 50 tours Stafford's company, Sidewalks of New York, offered to about 36,000 walkers last year include a trek through Jacqueline Onassis' New York — the haunted houses of Greenwich village, and a tour of Little Italy called "All in the Family."

On one recent tour, reputed mafia godfather John Gotti walked right past the group.

Stafford moved to New York about three years ago from Dallas, where he led tours of the Kennedy Assassination site.

"People want to see how the other half lives and dies," he said. "Reading about it in the newspaper is one thing, but standing on the spot is different."

## House

(Continued from page 1)

bers.

Minister of Transport and Communication, Jamal Sarayeh argued that the tax will not affect the poor.

"How will half a dinar affect the poor?" he asked.

The 10 per cent tax has been in effect since 1988 through a temporary law passed by the government. It was only at this point of parliamentary life that the law was put to the House to consider. The draft law (No. 35, 1988) was itself amended by another temporary law, No. 36, 1989.

The last amendment replaced the word "tax" by the term "service charge." According to Minister of Education Abdullah Akayleh, this was meant to indicate embassies and other organisations that are normally tax-exempt.

When the article was put to vote, 23 voted for the government proposal and 26 for the Brotherhood amendment. Most of the National Bloc and the Democratic Bloc voted on the side of the government.

In Monday's session the House also passed amendments to two laws as proposed by the government. It also set Jan. 16 as the date for a debate on the government's national health policy.

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## Hungarian breaks world record at World Swimming Championship

PERTH, Australia (AP) — A Hungarian unknown, Norbert Rozsa, broke the world record in the men's 100-metre breaststroke at the World Swimming Championships Monday and a Chinese star spoiled an expected American showdown in the women's 400-metre medley.

Elsewhere, the United States suffered a bittersweet start to the championships. Nicole Haislett won the first gold medal of the week-long event in the women's 100-metre freestyle but later lost a gold when judges said she jumped seven-hundredths of a second too early on the second leg of the 800 freestyle relay and disqualified the U.S. team.

That gave the title to Germany and ended a night of record-breaking performances — and deep disappointment for the Americans, who are favoured to win both men's and women's team titles.

Rozsa, ranked 22nd in the world, lowered the world record to 1 minute, 1.45 seconds, .04 seconds faster than the old mark he tied during morning heats.

The man who had set that mark and tied it twice is Hinsen's Adriano Moorhouse, was second in 1:01.58.

"I was hoping that I could better this morning's time," Rozsa said. "I am really very happy."

The eagerly awaited rematch between Americans Summer Sanders and Janet Evans in the 400-metre, a highlight of last year's Goodwill Games, instead turned into a race for third be-

tween two tiring swimmers.

Lin Li of China zoomed past the U.S. pair and Australian 16-year-old Hayley Lewis to win in 4:41.45, .01 seconds ahead of Lewis.

Sanders was third in 4:43.41 and Evans, the 1988 Olympic champion, fourth in 4:46.05.

Sanders ended Evans' four-year winning streak in the Goodwill Games and beat her again later in 1990. She swam the fastest heat time, and it looked like the rematch so many years for would be there.

But instead, Lin, with the second best time in the world in the event last year, and Lewis, the swimming star of last year's Commonwealth Games, staged the showdown and Sanders was wondering what happened.

"It felt like the worst 400 I ever swam in my life," Sanders said. "I did something major wrong."

Top-ranked in an event she hates, Sanders set the pace through each of the first three legs. Lewis was second after the butterfly. Evans after the backstroke and Lin after the breaststroke. And by then, Sanders was fading.

Lin and Lewis pulled out front with 25 metres to go and Lin went in front about 15 metres from home.

"I felt positive about winning before the start of the race," Lin said. "I could see Summer Sanders ahead of me but I felt I could catch her."

Haislett, like Sanders a mem-

ber of U.S. swimming's "new kids on the block" programme, caught France's Catherine Piebinski about 10 metres from the lead and won in 55.17, an American record and a victory margin of 1.47.

"America's first gold medal — I feel good," Haislett said. "I thought I would just ride her in and do my best."

But about two hours later, Haislett was at the centre of the first big controversy of the championships, where swimming started on the fifth day of the schedule.

Gao, the Olympic 3-metre springboard champion, had a steady if unspectacular round but sealed the victory with the day's best dive, an inward 1½ somersault from the pike position that won her only "9's" and a total of 61.20 points. She finished with 478.26 points.

She joined teammate Fu Xiamin as women's diving winners here and will be favoured to complete a Chinese sweep in the 3-metre springboard Friday.

Lucero, the U.S. national champ, picked up the day's top individual score, a 9.5 from one judge on a second-round backstroke dive. It led to her best day in international competition, finishing with 467.82 points and joining teammate Wendy Hearn as a women's diving medalist.

The electronic timing system showed Haislett left .07 seconds too soon — smaller than the margin of apparent U.S. victory but anything is big enough for disqualification.

Haislett declined to be interviewed by Jeff Diamond, U.S. swimming spokesman, said the teenager was "devastated."

World record-holder Giorgio Lamberti of Italy won the men's 200 freestyle in a meet-record 1:47.27 with a burst in the final 50 metres.

"This is biggest swimming event in the world so to me it feels better than the world record," Lamberti said. "It is the best thing in my career."

In other events, Gao Min of China won the 1-metre springboard over Wendy Lucero of the United States, Heidemarie Bartova of Czechoslovakia was third.

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## Hill keeps boxing title

BISMARCK, North Dakota (R) — Virgil Hill successfully defended his World Boxing Association (WBA) light heavyweight title with a 12-round, unanimous points decision over fellow American Mike Peak Sunday.

Hill, who easily won the bout on all three judges cards, raised his record to 30-0 to the delight of the partisan crowd at his hometown Bismarck Civic Centre. Peak's record dropped to 13-4-2.

Two judges had Hill winning every round, while the third judge awarded only the first round to Peak.

The champion suffered a cut under his left eye from a head butt in the first round but was never in trouble.

After a few close rounds, Hill took control of the ring in the fourth. Dancing around the challenger, Hill began scoring with left jabs, though many were blocked by Peak who kept his hands up over his face.

The fight was not of the more impressive outings for Hill, but

he threw nearly three times as many blows as Peak, who was on the defensive for most of the bout.

"I was satisfied. It was a good workout," said Hill, who has stopped 18 opponents inside the distance. "I threw a lot of punches. He's a very durable guy with good defences."

The best action came in the final two rounds when Hill moved in for the kill, but was unable to put Peak away.

"I had him wobbling, then I got tired," Hill said.

Peak realised he had not thrown enough punches to earn a world title. "I was a little under-used," he admitted. "He turned the heat on and I didn't."

The victory set up the 25-year-old Hill for a big money fight with former Champion Thomas Hearns later this year.

Hill promised to be sharper when he takes on the 32-year-old Hearns, who has held titles in five different weight classes.

"When the time comes I will be ready," he promised.

## Shriver, Krickstein win 1st round games in Sydney

SYDNEY (AP) — It wasn't just a routine first-round victory for Pam Shriver.

Seven months to the day that the 28-year-old underwent shoulder surgery, she was back in the winner's circle after beating 14th-seeded Isabele Cueto of Germany 7-6 (10-8), 6-1 today in the New South Wales Open.

"I usually don't get too excited about first-round wins, but this was probably the most important of my career, a little more special," Shriver said.

With 21 career singles titles, 83 doubles titles — 21 of them in Grand Slam events — and \$4 million in earnings, the former U.S. Open singles finalist can afford to be selective about her career highlight film.

Shriver, ranked 66th in singles, lost her first-round match at Brisbane last week to eventual finalist Akiko Kijimuta of Japan. Despite 14 double-faults, she survived against Cueto.

The closest they came to winning the tie, which will be replayed Wednesday, was five minutes from the end when defender Brian Laws cleared off the line in a goalmouth scramble.

Laws was booked earlier for bringing down John Salako with a late tackle as the Palace player was running into space down the wing.

Forest, who scored six goals against Norwich in midweek, failed to create any clear chances although midway through the second half Palace almost conceded an own goal when the ball struck keeper Nigel Martyn's shoulder as he and defender Eric Young collided.

For manager Brian Clough, who celebrated 16 years in charge at Forest this weekend, his dream of winning the trophy to have eluded him is still alive.

In other Sunday games First Division Leeds United, beaten only once in their last 14 games were held to a 0-1 draw at home to Nottingham Forest in their third round tie Sunday.

Forest came in at one hour, 5 minutes 48 seconds of

decision to have surgery on her shoulder and then attempt a comeback.

"I guess I was rushing to get my career over with, and I didn't really know where I was going," Shriver said. "But since I've made the decision to have the surgery, I've had a very positive attitude. I'm saying there's some really good tennis in me. I have a good attitude and can still be a force in the game."

She credits men's player Vitas Gerulaitis and top women stars Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova with giving her the confidence to come back.

Navratilova and Shriver, one of the most formidable doubles partnerships in the history of women's tennis, will team again this spring in the United States with a likely Grand Slam return at Wimbledon, where they have captured five titles.

In men's first-round matches, third-seeded Guy Forget of France beat Scott Davis of United States 6-3, 6-3, and Sweden's Joachim Anderson upset fifth-seeded Jay Berger of United States 6-3, 6-4.

## HOROSCOPE

### FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 8, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

you are supposed to unless you take yourself in hand and carry through.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the time to be sure no friend upsets the financial plans you have so carefully thought out and at the same time don't eliminate him/her.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The daytime finds you apt to have some disagreement with one of your family but avoid this and then tonight you can join forces in harmony.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There a number of intimate worries you seem unable to do anything about so stop fussing about them and get out and do some activities you like.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think over the best means by which you can show you are the one who does not expect much from friends when they are concerned about finances.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There are some pretty astute persons who are in a high office and they can be gulling for you if you are taking any chances with the law.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your interest in some new situation is all right tonight but during the day you would be wise to keep your mind focused upon personal finances.

## Careca threat to quit adds to Napoli woes

BRAZILIAN Striker Careca followed the example of celebrated South American teammate Diego Maradona after Napoli's weekend 1-0 defeat against Juventus — and threatened to quit.

"They treat us like this because we're from Naples," said the Brazilian. "If we're going to have to put up with things like that, I'm going to go."

Careca's anger was directed at the referee's decision to send off two Napoli players including goalkeeper Giovanni Galli.

Galli himself was equally aggrieved by the refereeing.

"Even Julio Cesar said I hadn't done anything to deserve it."

But as the champions fumed, Juventus celebrated their 1,000th first division win — made doubly sweet by the reappearance of striker Pier Luigi Casiraghi after a two-month lay-off for a cartilage operation.

The 21-year-old, who marked his return by scoring the only goal of the match two minutes from time, said he owed it all to his doctors and his girlfriend who nursed him through 70 days of pain and boredom.

Napoli midfielder Massimo Crippa, their second player sent off, received his red card for dissent after protesting that Casiraghi had handled the ball while scoring.

Napoli also had two players sent off Sunday as they went down 2-1 at home to Torino after throwing away chances.

"We can only cry at the opportunities we missed," said Sampdoria's Yugoslav coach Vujadin Boskov, whose team are now fifth.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
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#### SPOT THAT EXTRA CHANCE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
A 7  
7 5 4  
Q 6 5 3

**WEST**  
Q J 5 2  
J 10 9  
K 10 7  
K 9 5 2

**EAST**  
9 8 6 3  
J 9 4 2  
A 10 8 7

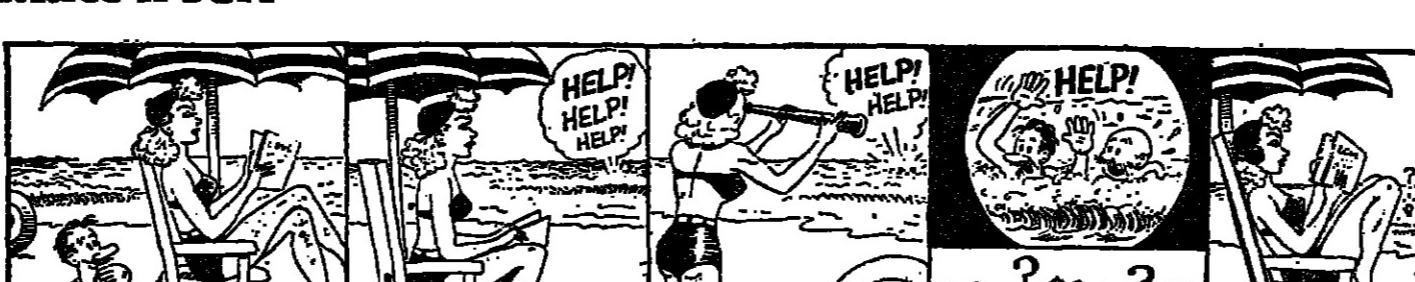
**SOUTH**  
K 10 8 6 4 3  
A K 2  
A  
K J 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass  
Pass Pass

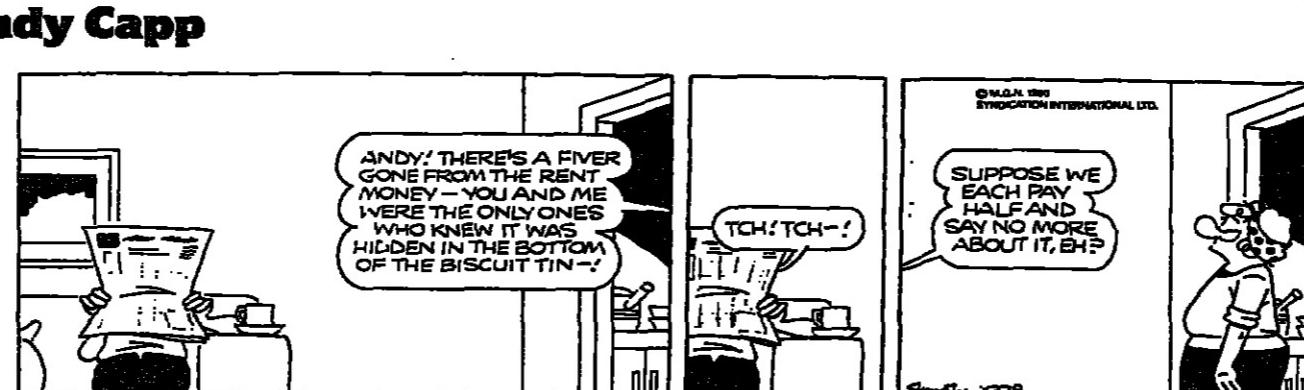
Opening lead: Jack of ♦  
Bridge is a fascinating game. We wonder how many times a situation such as this has arisen and declarer not recognised and played for the extra chance. Very rarely, we think.

South had a difficult rebid over partner's no trump response. The hand was worth a jump to game, but the spade suit was too poor for a leap to four spades, and the distribution made three no trump unlikely.

### Mutt'n'Jeff



### Andy Capp



### Peanuts



### THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**MARRO**

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**ALCAN**

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**NAITOR**

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**HANCUL**

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**THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME**  
© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

By Henri Arnould and Bob Lefebvre

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

# Economy

## Saddam ignites oil prices

LONDON (R) — Oil prices surged Monday after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Iraq would not quit Kuwait.

The February futures contract for world benchmark North Sea Brent blend on the International Petroleum Exchange at 1400 GMT was up \$1.39 from Friday, at \$24.95 a barrel after touching a morning high of \$25.70.

"Things are perceived in Europe to be more on a war footing this side of the weekend," one futures broker said.

Meanwhile, the Paris-based weekly energy newsletter Petrostrategies said that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) faced a glut of oil in the first three months of 1991.

It said the International Energy Agency (IEA) was revising its estimates of demand in the 24 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) based on an oil price of \$26 a barrel, against \$30 in its December report.

At \$30, if OPEC continued to produce at its maximum 24 million barrels per day (b/d), it would generate a surplus of its oil of more than 800,000 b/d in the first quarters, petrostrategies said.

Last month the Paris-based IEA, which coordinates the energy policy of most Western states, said the OECD members would need 23.1 million b/d of crude from OPEC in the first quarter of 1991.

London oil futures prices had tumbled more than \$1 barrel Friday on news that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would meet Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz in Geneva Wednesday.

But Saddam's weekend remarks urging his people to pre-

pare for war "have stabilised the floor (for prices)," a trader said.

"The market has not decided this means war is certain, but the tone has changed again," an oil analyst said.

Oil stocks in the West are at historically high levels, and discussions of an emergency response in the Gulf have centred on this and curbing oil consumption.

London traders also said they felt Iraq's rejection of an offer of talks by the European Community had raised the likelihood of war.

One analyst said prices could slip again ahead of the United Nations' Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Another trader said: "If talks don't lead to a solution, then on Jan. 15 prices will immediately jump \$5 from whatever point they are at — and then the market will be on tenterhooks for war any moment."

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But Saddam's weekend remarks urging his people to pre-

## Algeria to double gas exports to Europe

NICOSIA (R) — Algeria plans to double its natural gas exports to Europe to 60,65 billion cubic metres per year, Algerian Mines and Industry Minister Sadiq Boussena was quoted as saying by the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES).

The weekly Nicosia-based newsletter said the expansion, to be completed over the next few years, would involve doubling of an existing Algeria-Italy gas pipeline to 30 billion cubic metres per year.

A new pipeline taking Algerian gas across the Strait of Gibraltar to Spain and Portugal and possibly eventually also to France and Germany was being planned, he said.

Boussena told MEES Algeria was planning to upgrade its total LNG (liquefied natural gas) capacity by around 15 per cent.

Algeria was also seeking to establish a foothold in the U.S. gas market, he said.

An impending deal with Shell would bring Algeria's total gas exports to the United States to 10 to 10.5 billion cubic metres per year.

## Kuwait central bank said set for unblocking Kuwaiti banks

NICOSIA (R) — The Kuwaiti central bank, operating from exile for the past five months, expects an agreement soon with the U.S. Treasury and the Bank of England to free up the assets of all Kuwaiti banks that were frozen to prevent Iraq getting its hands on billions of dollars.

Kuwait central bank governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul Azz Al Sabah, told the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) in an interview at the end of December.

The governor said he wanted to reassure international banks

that repayment of principal on interbank loans would be made if desired after the eight banks are unblocked.

The blocked banks have been unable to operate these frozen funds in the international interbank market, an important market through which banks lend and borrow to cover their daily cash requirements, since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The governor said he wanted to reassure international banks

However, he believed there would be no rush by foreign banks to demand repayment of interbank funds because Kuwaiti banks remained net creditors in the international interbank system and they would also be able to reclaim deposits after they were unblocked.

In other words, Kuwait banks were in a position to make tit-for-tat withdrawals if foreign banks demanded their funds back.

## Gulf fears cast pall on Tokyo and Asian markets

TOKYO (R) — Fears that the Gulf crisis is headed toward a bloody resolution sent Tokyo and other Asian stock markets lower Monday but gave the dollar a boost.

"Everyone is uneasy over the Gulf crisis. Will there be war or peace?" said Tadaaki Uehara, deputy general manager at Tokai Securities Co. Ltd.

Uehara said the stock market has been "discounting a war in the Gulf to some extent since Iraq invaded Kuwait."

He said the Nikkei would fall about 1,000 points over a day or two if fighting breaks out, depending on how far the yen falls.

If Iraq withdraws, the Nikkei could gain some 1,500 to 1,600 points over a few days, but other worries would set in, he said.

Currency dealers said the market is reluctant to trade actively, pending the outcome of the last-ditch talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Iraqi counterpart Tareq Aziz in Geneva Wednesday.

"People don't want to gamble on the Gulf crisis as they can't tell what will happen next in the region," said Takashi Nobuto, deputy general manager at Sanwa Securities Co. Ltd.

In regional markets, continuing tension in the Middle East and a bleak world economic outlook cast a pall over the Australian share market.

"The market doesn't want to get up and run, it wants to lie down and die," said one dealer.

Taiwan stocks finished sharply lower on heavy selling by big players taking profits from Saturday's gains, dealers said.

Dealers said market sentiment was gloomy due to the unclear Gulf situation and profit-taking selling by big players.

"The index is now in a downward trend and nobody dares to buy," said Joe Chiou of Evergreen Securities.

Hong Kong stocks sagged in very thin trade on widespread lack of interest rather than active selling pressure, brokers said.

"People are watching and waiting but war fever is mounting so even the day-traders are sitting tight," said a broker at an Asian brokerage.

## Turkish stocks tumble 6.4% on Gulf jitters

ISTANBUL (R) — Heavy sales due to renewed Gulf fears at Istanbul's stock exchange caused share prices to plunge by 6.4 per cent Monday, dealers said.

The 75-share index (100-1986) closed at 3,292.30, down 225.6 points from Friday's 3,517.94, the first closing above the 3,500 mark since mid-December.

"The market moves according to Gulf news only, nothing else matters much," said dealer Cetin Birgun from Impexbank.

"Every new word out from any of the two sides has repercussions on the market," said broker Yener Kaya.

Dealers said weekend reports in both Iraq and the United States stressing once again their tough stands on the Gulf crisis and ongoing war preparations caused traders to turn quickly to profit-taking after last week's 8.1 per cent jump.

Daily volume was down sharply to 46.3 billion lira from Friday's 87.7 billion and last week's average 53.6 billion.

The market was reactionless to ongoing domestic strikes, Kaya said.

Turkey is facing its worst labour unrest since the 1980-83 military takeover, with nearly 200,000 workers striking in the mining and metal industries with pay rise demands of as much as 500 per cent.

**Jordan Times**  
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If you have registered during 1990 please confirm your continuing presence in Jordan by re-registering as soon as possible. Please also notify the Consular Section about any changes of address and/or telephone number. Such confirmation is in the interests of all British nationals in Jordan.

If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will be obliged to consider that those concerned have left the country. The names will accordingly be deleted from the register.

If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth country which does not have an Embassy or Consulate in Jordan please ask the British Embassy, Consular Section, about registration formalities.

The British Embassy is located in Abdoun, near the Orthodox Club.

Telephone 523100. The Post Office Box Number is 87.

The Consular Section is open from Sunday until Thursday 0830 - 1200 hours.

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks ended lower after the thinnest turnover since January 1986. Gulf war fears, a weaker yen and typical Monday blues dampened trade, brokers said. The Nikkei Index closed 352.62 points lower at 25,705.75.

SYDNEY — Shares lost more ground in thin trading, with Gulf worries and a bleak world economic outlook casting a pall over the market. The All Ordinaries index slid 2.1 points to 1,239.5, its lowest level in three years.

HONG KONG — Stocks fell as investors shunned the market because of the Gulf crisis. The Hang Seng dropped 20.09 to 30,265.52.

SINGAPORE — Prices fell over a broad front on liquidation and a lack of fresh buying. The Straits Times Industrial Index of 30 Singapore blue chips fell 5.87 points to close at 1,174.70.

BOMBAY — The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rose 28.42 points to 1,010.77, after falling 65.94 points last week. The National Index gained 10.96 to 509.30.

FRANKFURT — Prices ended about 2.7 per cent lower after bellicose comments at the weekend by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The Dax ended at 1,358.16, down 37.91 points.

ZURICH — Swiss shares ended over two per cent lower on fears of a Gulf war. Dealers said volume was light with little buying interest ahead of a U.S.-Iraq meeting in Geneva Wednesday.

PARIS — French shares ended lower on fears of war in the Gulf and concern about U.S. recession pushing down prices, dealers said. The CAC-40 Index ended 39.79 points down at 1,507.87.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips opened under pressure with many investors on the sidelines because of Gulf war fears and renewed concern over the U.S. banking system, dealers said. After falling about 27, the Dow was off 17 in late morning to 2,549.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, January 7, 1991  
Central Bank official rates  

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	664.0	668.0
French Franc	1274.5	1282.1
Deutschmarks	458.3	440.9
Swiss franc	518.2	523.2
French franc	120.2	120.0
Japanese yen (100)	469.0	461.9
Dutch guilder	388.6	390.9
Swedish crown	117.2	117.9
Italian lira (100)	58.4	58.8
Belgian franc (10)	214.2	215.5

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.9000/10
One U.S. dollar	1.1548/58
	1.5325/35
	1.7280/90
	1.2967/74
	31.60/63
	5.1950/00
	1151.52/5.5
	136.75/85
	5.7150/00
	5.9930/80
	5.8970/20
One ounce of gold	398.80/391.30

## Den Norske Bank sees net loss in first year

OSLO (R) — Norway's biggest bank, Den Norske Bank (DNB), has forecast that it would lose money in its first year of operation due to high losses on lending at home and abroad instead of making a profit as it had earlier predicted.

DNB was formed in a merger a year ago of Den Norske Creditbank and Bergen Bank, the biggest in a wave of link-ups among Norwegian banks which are facing growing competition as Norway opens its economy to the European Community.

The bank said it was raising its forecast for 1990 losses on lending and guarantees to 3.83 billion crowns (\$655 million) from 3.23 billion (\$553 million) in 1989 before the merger.

Share analysts forecast that the bank would lose a net one billion crowns (about \$18 million). Many Norwegian banks are

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## British Ladies of Amman Announcement

The next meeting of the British Ladies of Amman will be held on Wednesday 9th January at 10 a.m. at the Amra Hotel.

The afternoon meeting will be on Wednesday on 16th Jan. at 4 p.m.

## NOTICE

The Cypriot Honorary Consulate in Amman, Jordan requests all Cypriot citizens to report to the consulate as soon as possible or contact telephones nos:

677619 or 677559

Honorary Consul

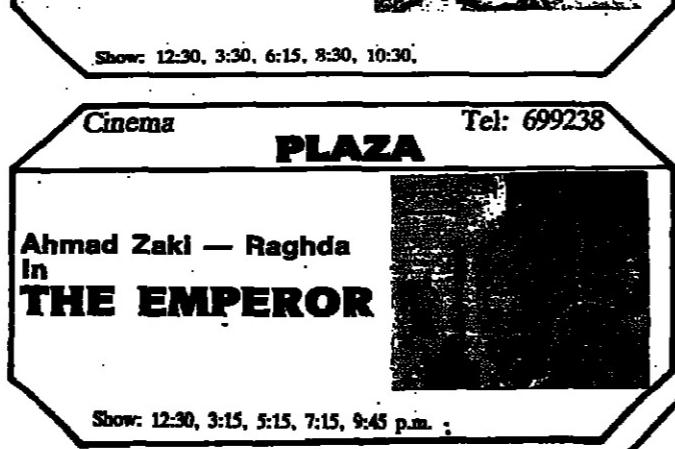
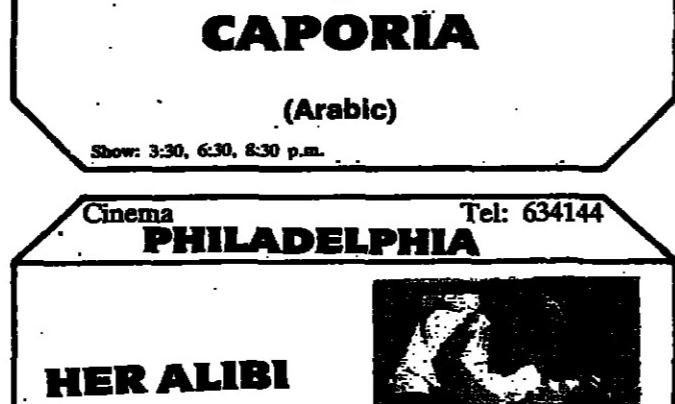
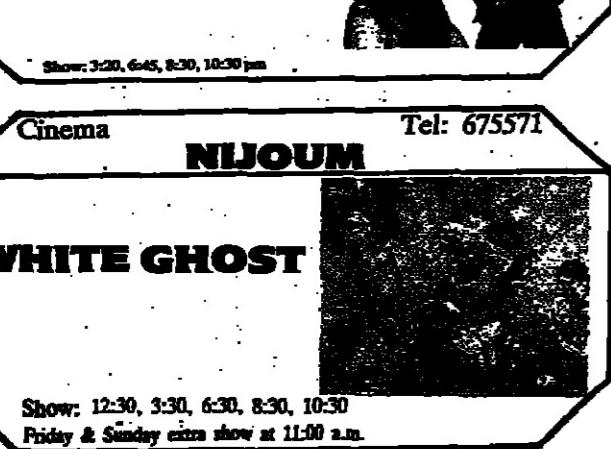
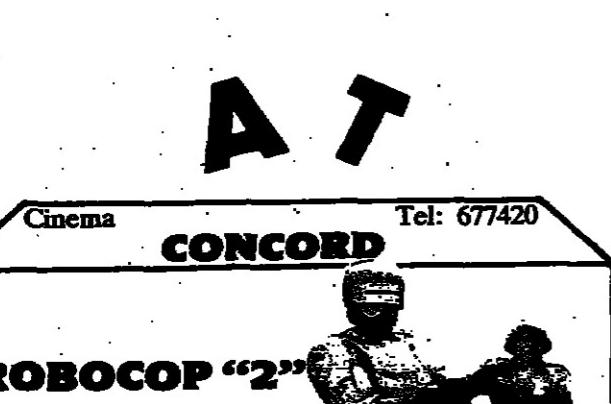
## ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive course in Modern Standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on January 26, and will last for 16 weeks.

The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday.

Evening classes meet three days a week: Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration.



## Duvalier aid grabs power in Haiti

POR-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A former close aide to ousted dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier declared himself president early Monday after seizing the national palace, but the military said it was moving to end the challenge.

Haitians enraged by the threat to their country's first peaceful transition to democracy took to the streets in protest.

The attempted coup by an undetermined number of soldiers was led by Dr. Roger Lafontant, the reputed head of the dreaded Tonton Macoute militia that enforced the Duvalier regime.

It was not known whether there was any bloodshed. Lafontant's declaration came after heavy gunfire at the palace. The whereabouts of President-elect Jean-Bertrand Aristide were not known, but he was reported safe.

Lafontant announced the takeover on national radio from the palace, declaring he had the army's support.

But the army high command later condemned the takeover and said it was taking unspecified steps to restore the caretaker civilian government.

There was no sign of unusual military activity in the capital early Monday, however.

Before dawn, protesters shouting "long live Aristide, down with Lafontant" took to the streets in some sections of Port-Au-Prince, the capital of 1 million people, and erected flaming barricades.

Jean-Claude Bajeux, a prominent human rights activist, said

he did not think Lafontant would be able to hold power long.

"Lafontant does not have the complete support of the army and has the people solidly against him," Bajeux said.

Lafontant, a former interior and defence minister, went on the radio early Monday and declared himself provisional president a minute after caretaker President Ertha Pascal-Trouillot announced her resignation over the air.

In Washington, a U.S. State Department spokesman said Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot was being held hostage by Lafontant.

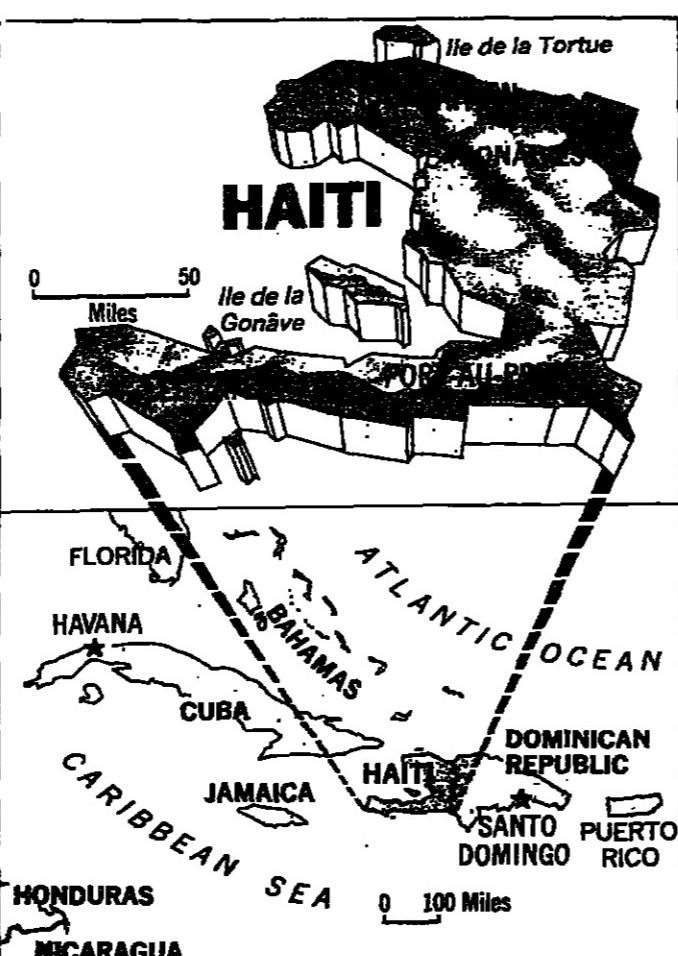
"We emphatically condemn this assault on President Trouillot and this attempt to overthrow the constitutional government of Haiti," said spokesman David Denny. "We will provide no support to nor conduct normal relations with any government of Haiti that comes to power by unconstitutional means."

Aristide, a leftist Roman Catholic priest elected by a landslide last month in the country's first free nationwide vote, is scheduled to take office on Feb. 7, the fifth anniversary of Duvalier's fall in a popular uprising.

The independent Electoral council had barred Lafontant from the presidential race.

When Aristide's victory seemed assured, he threatened not to let the charismatic priest take office.

Lafontant appeared on state-run television shortly after the radio announcement and said he had acted "in association with the armed forces."



He said he was outraged by the election, which he called a "masquerade" and a "scathing insult."

"The great loser of the elections was the Haitian people," he said.

The Caribbean nation has had five governments in the tumultuous years since Duvalier fled into exile. A November 1987 attempt at free elections was thwarted when thugs aided by soldiers shot or hacked to death

at least 34 voters. Former Tonton Macoutes were believed involved.

After the massacre, the United States suspended all but humanitarian aid to Haiti pending the installation of a democratic government.

Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot's

announcement came at 12:10 a.m. (0510 GMT), about 2½ hours after heavy gunfire broke out at the national palace.

## Cambodia pledges to take war to Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian President Heng Samrin has pledged to carry the war to his guerrilla opponents, saying they are asking his government to "commit suicide" in peace negotiations.

In a speech marking 12 years since Liberation Day, when invading Vietnamese troops ended the Khmer Rouge's nightmare rule, Heng Samrin said the government had made more than enough concessions at the negotiating table.

The government had passed its sternest test by holding off the Khmer Rouge since Vietnamese combat troops finally withdrew in September, 1989, he said.

"We have not yet scored a decisive victory," he said. "This dry season we should be active in counter-attacking the enemies. The people and masses should be urged to contribute to fighting the enemies."

The president made his speech Saturday from a podium of the royal palace to several thousand soldiers and civilians. Copies were distributed to foreign journalists Monday, Liberation Day.

The capital was festooned with banners and national flags and a night curfew was lifted.

Visting soccer teams from Laos, Thailand and Vietnam were due to play a "friendship" match.

Vietnamese troops invaded after repeated Khmer Rouge attacks on border villages in southern Vietnam. They found a country where at least one million people had been killed or starved to death under the radical Communist leadership of Khmer Rouge chief Pol Pot.

The Khmer Rouge linked up with two other guerrilla groups and the alliance, with Chinese and Western military and political support, has kept the Phnom Penh government in a state of siege for the past decade.

Preventing the Khmer Rouge from returning to power was the core of Phnom Penh's problems with a United States peace plan, Heng Samrin said.

The plan hammered out by China, the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain calls for Phnom Penh to surrender control of five ministries to U.N. administrators before the holding of elections. It also wants the rival armies to disarm.

"The draft agreement must be improved," Heng Samrin said. "We have made concessions and they constantly make demands to the point of even demanding that we commit suicide."

He reiterated his government's objections to the army laying down its weapons, saying this would leave the soldiers vulnerable to treachery by the Khmer Rouge.

However, he said a U.N. force could supervise the cantonment of combatants.

Like many of the current leadership, Heng Samrin is a former Khmer Rouge who defected to flee Pol Pot's internal purges.

The ruling Khmer People's Revolutionary Party explains the past by saying Pol Pot and his henchmen hijacked Cambodia's revolution with their savagery and extremism.

Heng Samrin's call to arms matched a similar war cry by the Khmer Rouge last week when its nominal leader, Kieu Samphan, urged his units to step up attacks following another round of inconclusive peace talks in Paris before Christmas.

"I will not excuse that but it's understandable," he said.

## Aid reaches Soviets despite donor uncertainty

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Large amounts of food and other Western aid are reaching the Soviet Union, although some donors say they are still unsure what and how much is needed.

A few emergency campaigns intended to avert hunger during the harsh Soviet winter have slowed. Other donors are making longer-range plans, including shipments for the next six months.

Some donor groups are using their own personnel in the Soviet Union to monitor aid distribution. They say they are largely satisfied that aid packages are reaching the genuinely needy, despite reports of inefficiency and corruption in Soviet distribution systems.

In Paris, Jacques Lebas, director of the French relief agency Medecine Du Monde, has denounced massive food aid shipments to the Soviets.

"There are real famines taking place in Sudan, in Ethiopia. There is no famine in the Soviet Union," he said.

In Geneva, Secretary-General Paer Stenbaek of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies told reporters, "there are needs in the Soviet Union but no traces of famine."

He said Africa, where 20 million people could face starvation, should have priority.

Scandinavian Red Cross officials are sending fact-finding delegations to the Soviet Union.

"Many want to wait and see what happens. They are unsure of the situation," said Sven-Goran Henriksson of the Swedish Aid Agency, SIDA.

In Moscow, KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov says more than 99 per cent of the aid is reaching those who need it most. He has told reporters minor cases of theft have been discovered by the KGB, assigned to oversee aid distribution.

The German Red Cross, which has provided \$13 million in aid, said the Soviet Red Cross is investigating alleged mismanagement of goods.

"I cannot guarantee that absolutely nothing has gone astray," said General-Secretary Johann Wilhelm Roemer of the German agency.

Roemer said there may be some petty thefts, such as a Soviet Red Cross worker who might keep a food package for his family.

"I will not excuse that but it's understandable," he said.

## Column 8

Critics say Goodfellow's best film of 1990

NEW YORK (AP) — Goodfellow's director Martin Scorsese's vivid portrayal of one man in the mafia, has been voted the best picture of 1990 by the National Society of Film Critics.

The society, made up of movie critics from several major American publications, announced the winners. The best actor award went to Jeremy Irons for his portrayal of Charlie Von Bulow in *Reversal Of Fortune*.

Anjelica Huston was named best actress for her work in *The Grifters*. Scorsese was named best director for *Goodfellow*.

Dutch aid collectors say their own representatives have monitored plane loads of medicines arriving in Moscow. Organiser Gerrit Braks said most supplies bought through a \$12 million telethon will be sent in March and April, when it's anticipated that the Soviets' problems will be worst.

In Oslo, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bjoern Blokhus said Norwegian donors will oversee the distribution of \$1.6 million in aid to the northwestern Soviet Kola Peninsula.

Dr. Aino Snellman said in Utsjoki, in Finland's northern Lapland, that reindeer-herding Lapps were sending aid including clothes and shampoo to the Kola Peninsula settlement of Lovozero.

"There is no famine there but basic foods are being rationed and the long winter ahead is frightening people," she said.

"It's a small village and they have organised a commission to guard the stuff... they are trustworthy people and there is very little chance it will get into the wrong hands."

Civil Defence Ministry officials in Rome said a 100-metric ton food shipment from Milan arrived safely in Leningrad and was delivered to city offices for distribution to schools and rest homes.

Austrian government officials use Komsomol, the Soviet youth organisation, to watch food packages for orphans and old people's homes.

Donors said the first wave of Austrian shipments has passed, mainly because organised aid campaigns have ended.

The European Community (EC) plans to send by mid-January 225 tonnes of medical supplies and nearly 500 tonnes of food for three months. Two airplanes and 52 trucks will take material to Moscow, Leningrad, Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Chernobyl area.

**Foster finishes directing film**

NEW YORK (AP) — Jodie Foster, who has finished directing her first movie, has a tip for young actors: Just pretend. Foster makes her directorial debut in *Little Man Tate*, the story of a gifted boy, his mother (portrayed by Foster) and a psychologist who wants to take the boy away to enroll him in college. In it, Foster coached seven-year-old Adam Hann-Byrd through his first movie. "Just pretend really well," Foster said in Sunday's New York Times magazine, recalling how she instructed young Adam, "and then think about what that pretending looks like."

*Little Man Tate*, the story of a gifted boy, his mother (portrayed by Foster) and a psychologist who wants to take the boy away to enroll him in college. In it, Foster coached seven-year-old Adam Hann-Byrd through his first movie. "Just pretend really well," Foster said in Sunday's New York Times magazine, recalling how she instructed young Adam, "and then think about what that pretending looks like."

**Drugs, not heart attack killed Elvis**

MEMPHIS Tennessee (AP) — A pathologist who helped perform the autopsy on Elvis Presley says the king of rock 'n' roll died of drugs and not heart disease. Dr. Eric Muirhead said although Presley did have some problems with his heart, it was a deadly mix of drugs that killed him. "I don't deny that the man had some coronary artery disease and an enlarged heart," Muirhead said Friday. "But he didn't even have enough to have a bypass."

Muirhead has remained largely silent on the subject in the 13 years since Presley died, though he has been described in the past as privately disagreeing with the finding that Presley died of heart disease.

At a news conference, Serrano said he would work to end a 30-year-old leftist rebellion that has killed 100,000 people and, as commander-in-chief of the 50,000-strong army, he would work to protect human rights.

Serrano played an important role in peace talks that began earlier this year between the rebels and a special private-sector commission.

He also pledged to improve relations with the United States, which last month cut off all military aid to Guatemala in protest at lack of progress in the government's investigation of the murder of a U.S. hotel owner last spring.

Five soldiers were arrested in September in connection with the American's death, but the case has moved no further despite pressure from the U.S. embassy here.

Five soldiers were arrested in September in connection with the American's death, but the case has moved no further despite pressure from the U.S. embassy here.

## Ershad charged with illegal possession of arms

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) —

Police have filed the first formal charge against deposed President Hussain Muhammad Ershad at more than 1,000 university students marched Monday to demand that Ershad be banned from politics.

Ershad was not only a dictator, he destroyed democracy and institutionalised corruption. He has no right to do politics" and "try Ershad, hang him and his corrupt ministers.

"Ershad was not only a dictator, he destroyed democracy and institutionalised corruption. He and his associates must be banned from politics," said Habibur Rahman, a leader of the All Party Student Unity, a coalition of 23 student organisations.

The 60-year-old Ershad could be sentenced to life imprisonment if convicted of the charge of illegal possession of firearms.

A deputy commissioner of police, Shamsur Alam, filed the charge Saturday in a police station in the Dhaka military cantonment where Ershad lived when he was president, a senior police official said.

Police found four unlicensed pistols, four other unlicensed guns and 174 bullets in Ershad's former residence during raids after he was removed from the dwelling and put under house arrest on Dec. 12 in the Gulshan diplomatic area.

Ershad, a former army general, resigned Dec. 6 after seven weeks of violent street demonstrations against what his opponents said was a corrupt and autocratic rule.

U.S. district Judge Harold Greene denied the request but left open the possibility he might consider referring a legal fight between a majority of Congress and Bush.

It remains to be seen whether the new Congress that convened last week will accept Greene's invitation.

Not involved in the current debate is the War Powers Act, the Vietnam-era law which limits American involvement in foreign conflicts. Administrations traditionally do not formally acknowledge the act, which they regard as an unconstitutional infringement by Congress on the president's powers as commander-in-chief.

Rotunda said, "President Bush is proceeding pursuant to the law." Ron Rotunda, a law professor at the University of Illinois. "It is primarily political — these are policy matters more than legal questions."

Both McConnell and Rotunda said Congress unques-

tionsably has the power to prohibit further spending for any military endeavor. There is widespread agreement that Congress never would cut off funding once troops are in combat.

The Senate began formal debate Friday on Bush's war-making authority.

The constitution's Article I, Section 8 says, "Congress shall have power ... to declare war."

The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing Tuesday on the issue of whether Bush has an obligation under the war-powers clause of the constitution to get authority from Congress before waging war against Iraq.

Former Attorney General Nicholas Deb. Katzenbach is expected to testify.

Rotunda was one of 127 law

professors who last week signed a letter stating congressional approval is required before Bush

"may order United States Armed Forces to make war in the Gulf."

"The president holds a contrary view."

We are living a beautiful moment. For the first time in the history of our country... a civilian president will turn over the presidency to another civilian president in a clean democratic process," he said.

Serrano is a born-again Christian Evangelist, as was former military President Efraim Rios Montt, but although Guatemala is predominantly Roman Catho-

lic, the religious issue did not figure largely in the election.

With results from 284 voting booths in the capital, Serrano was leading with 68.3 per cent compared with 31.7 per cent for his rival, newspaper publisher Jorge Carpio, said Arturo Herbruger, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

"This is very significant. I think this will be the general result in the capital," Herbruger said at a news conference. Results trickling in from the provinces showed Serrano leading with similar percentages.

Carpio remained out of sight but Edmond Mulet, a legislator for his National Centre Union (UCN), acknowledged defeat and said Carpio probably would not comment until later Monday.

"I think it is a fact that Serrano will be the president-elect. UCN supporters are accepting that reality," Mulet told Reuters.

"We would like to congratulate